

Lara
Philosophical
After Unusual
Dismissal



Palestinian Mother
Holds Pictures of
Her Sons Jailed by
Israel. 200 Arab
Women
Demonstrated in
Gaza Dec. 23,
Demanding Release
of Prisoners
According to the
Peace Deal
Page 21



The
Supreme
Leader
Calls for
Expansion
of
Nationwide
Road
Networks
Page 2



VOL. III, No. 637 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

RAHGOZAR:

Iran Will Produce 30m Tons of Petrochemicals



Int'l Court
Fixes
Deadline for
U.S. in Row
with Iran

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The International Court of Justice in The Hague yesterday fixed a deadline of June 23, 1997 for the United States to file a counterstatement in a case with Iran which dates back to the late 1980s.

The International Court of Justice declared itself competent earlier this month to rule in a conflict between Iran and the United States over the destruction by U.S. warships of three Iranian oil rigs.

In late 1987 and early 1988, during the Iran-Iraq War, U.S. warships destroyed three Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

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Peru Hostages
Prepare for
Christmas in
Captivity

LIMA, PERU (AFP) - Some 140 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence prepared yesterday to spend Christmas in captivity without electricity and running water with leftist guerrillas holding them apparently set for an extended siege.

Neither the government nor the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) holding the hostages has shown any sign of yielding following Sunday's release of 225 captives.

The MRTA said there would be no more captives freed until the government released more than 400 of their jailed comrades.

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BY NADER ADABI

TEHRAN - By launching a strategic plan for the next 25 years and building 30 large petrochemical complexes our petrochemical production will hit 30 million tons per annum (tpa) earning a minimum of \$30b for the nation, a senior government official told IRAN NEWS yesterday.

Ahmad Rahgozar, deputy minister of oil and managing director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC), said a \$12b plus 36-trillion-rial budget is needed to implement the project. Two billion dollars has been set aside for NPC in the 1376 (1997/98) budget for that purpose, "and we do possess the science and technology to undertake the project."

The project will earn NPC 21 trillion rials a year and will provide employment for 340 thousand people, and, should investment drop in the petrochemical branch in Saudi Arabia, Iran will emerge as the top producer of petrochemical byproducts in the Middle East.

"Once the \$2b budget for NPC

for the year 1376 is approved by the Majlis, the company will build eight petrochemical plants and we have issued permits for establishment of general public stock companies with domestic capital to invest in our projects," said Rahgozar, adding that petrochemical industry will be the highest profit generating source in the country and the capital invested in that branch will be recovered within 3 to 5 years.

He said NPC aims for total export in the future, and after satisfying domestic demand a large portion of the surplus will be exported.

Rahgozar said we need national enthusiasm and coordination between all the ministries to implement the ambitious plan mentioned above.

"With an eye to an anticipated \$15b income in upstream industries and \$15b in downstream, the nation will be freed from dependence on oil revenues," the managing director of NPC said, adding that at the end of the Second Plan

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France Welcomes Accord in Tajikistan

PARIS, FRANCE (Reuters) - France yesterday welcomed the signing by warring factions in Tajikistan of two key accords on national reconciliation and urged the two sides to quickly implement the agreements.

"We strongly encourage the parties which participated in the negotiations to implement these agreements as soon as possible," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The agreements were signed in Moscow on Monday by President Emomali Rakhmanov and Islamic opposition leader Seyed Abdullah Nouri. A United Nations envoy also signed the documents.

They map out the powers and functions of a new National Reconciliation Commission aimed at ending a four-year civil war in the former Soviet republic.

Tens of thousands have been killed and many more displaced in

fighting between the government and Islamic rebels, further complicated by seething regional and clan rivalries.

Under their agreement, the two sides undertake to complete negotiations for a permanent peace settlement by next July 1.

Previous cease-fires have been routinely flouted. A U.N.-sponsored truce reconfirmed last July collapsed almost as soon as it was signed.



MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmanov (L) and leader of Tajik Islamic opposition Seyed Abdullah Nouri (R) shake hands after signing peace agreement in Moscow while the special envoy of the U.N. Secretary-General Gerd Dietrich Merrem (C) looks on in Moscow, Dec. 23. The two protocols signed are aimed at ending more than four years of civil war.

(AFP Photo)

Wednesday December 25, 1996, Day 5, 1375, Sha'ban 14, 1417

Habibi to Head High-Level Delegation to Armenia, Tajikistan

BY PARISA ALINIA



TEHRAN - The First Vice President Dr. Hassan Habibi, heading a high-level political-economic delegation, is due to leave Tehran on a two-nation tour of Armenia and Tajikistan.

Habibi's 4-day visit to Yerevan is in response to the Armenian prime minister's visit in Iran.

During his stay in Armenia, Dr. Habibi will hold talks with the Armenian president, prime minister, parliament speaker and foreign minister and will deliver a lecture at a gathering of members of Armenia's Legislative Assembly, according to information received from the President's Public Relations Office.

Habibi will also hold separate meetings with the chairman of the Armenian Academy of Science and its faculty members, as well as the chancellor of the state-run University of Armenia. Also in Habibi's agenda is to address a gathering of Persian language teachers of Yerevan's Ferdowsi University.

Habibi and his accompanying delegation will also visit some cultural, historical, and economic

sites in Armenia and inaugurate the construction operation of the new building of Iran's embassy as well as the Iranology center of Yerevan.

Means and ways of strengthening and expansion of bilateral and regional ties, signing of some economic, trade, and cultural agreements, the acceleration of implementation of the previous agreements inked between the two countries, and the increase in the volume of mutual trade transactions are among the topics to be discussed between Habibi and the Armenian officials.

Habibi and his entourage will

See Page 21

German Prosecutor's Statements on Iran "Uncalculated"

Steinbach, who came to Iran to take part in the Seventh Persian Gulf Seminar, said, "As already indicated, the move will not cause the severance of Iran-Germany ties."

On rumors that a decree similar

See Page 21



STEINBACH

BY MOJGAN TAVASSOLI

TEHRAN - What the German prosecutor said about Iran was somewhat uncalculated, director of Deutsches Orient Institut, Udo Steinbach, told IRAN NEWS here yesterday.

The prosecutor's accusations against the highest authority in Iran was incorrect, as specified by the German Parliament (SPD) and the Green Group which said the issue is a judicial, not a political, case, he added.

Please See Middle East News on Page 21

FELICITATIONS

Thursday, the 15th of Sha'ban (December 26), marks the birth anniversary of Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (A. S.). IRAN NEWS management and staff wish to congratulate the Muslim ummah on this auspicious occasion.

Birth Anniversary of Imam Al-Mahdi

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Iraq to Issue Passports to Kurds

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European Footballer

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EDITORIAL

Lot of Room for Improvement in the Agricultural Sector

This is Agriculture Week marking the significance of agriculture in the economic structure of the nation.

Presently, the agricultural sector is one of the important branches of the nation's economy with a 25 percent contribution to the GNP and provides employment for 20 percent of the population.

But regrettably despite the pressing urgency of this vital branch and the high added value of its products and potentials, agricultural resources are not properly exploited.

Traditional methods of exploiting water and soil results in waste of water and decline in the quality of the soil leading to incongruity between the present plans and long-term plans.

Presently, 18 million hectares of farmland are earmarked for cultivation which is almost fully exploited, whereas to find and exploit new farms we need heavy investment in water and soil preparation.

Each year 20 thousand hectares of the most fertile farmlands are devoured by the industrial sector, phased out of productivity and contribute to pollution. With an average of 240 mm annual rainfall Iran is classified among the dry and arid regions of the world with very little water resources. 93 billion cu. m of water is exploited each year by the nation, of which 78 billion cu. m go to agriculture. However, the amount of water actually used for agricultural purposes is 25 billion cu. m, a little more than 31 percent of the available amount. The rest is lost to waste and seepage.

In the meantime the government is the main provider of capital for the agricultural sector and due to low and late yield, the private sector is not quite eager to invest in this food earning branch.

Consequently, and unfortunately, despite the existence of vast potentials, this branch which is the substructure for the Second Five-Year Plan is facing structural problems and agro-producers and farmers are less inclined and motivated to contribute to its quantitative and qualitative growth. As such our agriculture neither satisfies the domestic consumers nor makes an energetic competition abroad.

Despite all the steps taken in the past few years, we need to take drastic measures to activate, energize and motivate this branch and properly utilize its potentials.

A proper and rational inculcation of agricultural standards, education, training and enough investment will help the nation overcome this hurdle at a time that the world is threatened with famine and population explosion.

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Leader Praises Roads and Transport Ministry

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei yesterday said roads are the infrastructure of development and underlined that the expansion of Iranian road networks plays an important role in achieving the targets of development plans in various sectors.

In a meeting with the minister and officials of the Ministry of Roads and Transport, the Leader called on the officials to take into account Iran's national interests and meet the needs of the people in drawing up their development projects.

The Supreme Leader said that rural roads should be preserved as national assets of the country, and voiced his satisfaction with the performance of the Roads and Transport Ministry and with the opening of new main and minor roads throughout the country.

Terming the Bafq-Mashhad railway project as important for connecting Central Asia with open seas, Ayatollah Khamenei said all projects for establishment of railway tracks, roads, air links and new airports should serve the development of the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on the ministry officials to provide



facilities for people to make use of railway networks, adding: "People, particularly the middle and low income strata of society should have access to the country's surface transport facilities."

Before the Leader's remarks, Minister of Roads and Transport Akbar Torkan presented a report

on the performance of his ministry. He said the country has 75,000 km of major and minor roads and a large portion of 12,000 km of new roads now under construction will be completed by the end of the Second Development Plan.

Torkan said the country has 45 airports and the total cost of cargo

transported across the country stood at 12,000 billion rials. He said 170,000 trucks carry 200 million tons of cargo each year in Iran.

The minister also said that 9.2 million passengers travel on domestic and international flights per year.

Army Defense Preparedness High, Gen. Dadbin

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - "The continuation of peace depends on the country's strengthening of defense capabilities and the vigilant presence of Iran's Armed Forces at the borders of the Islamic country," said General Ahmed Dadbin, commander of Iran's Ground Forces.

Speaking at a gathering attended by a group of commanders of major units of the Iranian Ground Force, Gen. Dadbin further said that Iran had no wish to fight with any other country, "but the country's defense preparedness will be kept high under any condition," he continued.

"Although the Iraqi-imposed

war ended 8 years ago, the operational units of Iran's Ground Force are still stationed at the country's border towns and have been keeping and expanding their defense preparedness," Dadbin added.

Gen. Dadbin said that Iranian soldiers under the leadership of Iran's Supreme Commander in Chief Ayatollah Khamenei, possess a very high military preparedness and are ready to undertake any mission.

The gathering in which the commanders are to exchange their military training and logistic experiences commenced Tuesday and will end today.

SPEAKER: Confront Corrupt Elements

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatolislam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri has stressed the significance of improving the living condition of civil servants and confronting corrupt elements in the administrative system.

He also stressed the necessity of coordination in the reform of the administrative system and taking more effective steps to change the living conditions of the civil servants.

Speaking at a meeting with the members of the Islamic Association of Civil Servants on Monday, Nateq-Nouri referred to some instances of corruption, including bribery and use of connections in the administrative system, and expressed hope that such instances would be eliminated as a result of national determination.

"Fortunately nothing from abroad is threatening our country. What is the cause for concern is the very small threat resulting from the little corruption in the administrative system which does not have any specific appearance but has a great destructive effect," he noted.

Complaint by Disabled Agents against German Firms

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy head of the Mostazafan and Jambazan Foundation, Hussein Zarif-Manesh, said a number of the war disabled suffering from syndromes of chemical attacks have taken legal action against German firms that

supplied Iraq with deadly chemicals during the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988).

He added that the foundation has forwarded the complaint of the war disabled to the Judiciary to follow up the case, according to an IRNA report.

The war veterans suffering from chemical syndromes have requested the Judiciary to proceed with their legal action, he said.

Iraq launched chemical attacks several times in the course of the eight years of the imposed war.



TEHRAN - President Rafsanjani (R) yesterday received the visiting Turkmen vice president (L).

IRAN NEWS

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Model Farmers Praise President's Support for Agriculture Sector

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a group of model farmers here yesterday that the Islamic Republic of Iran is proud of producing 88 percent of its food supplies inside the country at a time when per capita consumption of food has increased to 3,000 calories from 2,000 calories.

The group presented President Rafsanjani with a plaque decorated with eight golden ears of wheat as a sign of his eight years in office in recognition of his support for farmers. A farmer who is the father of three martyrs gave the gift to President Rafsanjani.

Thanking the model farmers for their gift, the President ordered that the gift be kept at the museum of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The President said that huge investments made to make optimal use of water resources through building large and small dams and employment of irrigation under pressure as well as drainage systems have been great strides taken toward removing water shortage and increasing the lands under cultivation.

Minister of Agriculture Issa Kalantari said at the meeting that the amount of domestically produced agricultural crops has risen to 60 million tons a year from pre-Revolution level of 22 million tons.

Kalantari said, quoted by IRNA, at present 1,400 Iranian students are majoring in various agriculture-related courses in Iranian universities.



Photo by Abdi

Tajik Negotiators Hail Iran's Role in Tajik Peace Talks

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Negotiators approved Iran's contribution to the success of the peace talks for Tajikistan. Tajik President Imomali Rahmonov, and leader of the opposition in Tajikistan Abdollah Nouri yesterday signed a cease-fire agreement in Moscow, IRNA reported.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had consistently played an important role for bringing peace in Tajikistan, Nouri said and added that the Iranians had exerted all

they could to ensure a negotiated settlement to the problem in Tajikistan.

He expressed hope that the Islamic Republic would offer every possible assistance for returning Tajikistan's economy to normal.

According to reports from IRNA, envoy of the secretary-general of the United Nations for Tajik peace talks said in Moscow yesterday that Iran had always played a significant role for the eventual success of the talks.

Iran, Georgia Call for Ease of Tension in Caucasus

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - A joint communique was issued in Tehran and Tbilisi simultaneously calling for mediation efforts of Iran and Georgia to ease regional tensions at the end of Georgian State Minister Niko Lekishvili's visit to Tehran.

Stressing the need for development of bilateral relations and peaceful cooperation, the communique underlined importance of all-out relations between Tehran and Tbilisi and the current top-level discussions between the two countries.

Lekishvili and Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi said that the crises in the region could be resolved only through peaceful means.

The two sides expressed pleasure with signing of a letter of understanding at the third session of Tehran-Tbilisi Joint Economic Commission held in Tehran yesterday, and the agreements reached in industrial, transportation, housing and urban development, banking, insurance, commercial and tourism fields.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supported the initiative of Geor-



LEKISHVILI

gian President Eduard Shevardnadze who advocated peace-seeking Caucasus, and Georgia appreciated Iranian diplomatic efforts to help restore peace and tranquility in the region.

The Georgian Republic also hailed Iranian initiative to hold multilateral meetings in order to bolster development and economic cooperation in the region.

Tehran and Tbilisi also called for reinforcing peace and security in the republic and finding solution to the problems facing Georgia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran

Deputy leader of the opposition movement in Tajikistan Akbar Turajunzoda, too, said the first cease-fire agreement had been brokered by the Islamic Republic's efforts and praised Iran's help for solving the crisis in Tajikistan.

He said the people of Tajikistan looked forward to seeing Iran's contribution for peace, stability and national reconstruction in that country.

Chinese FM Spokesman Rejects Reports on Cooperation with Iran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, in Beijing Monday strongly dismissed reports by American press to the effect that Beijing has agreed to Washington's request to stop military cooperation with Iran.

"China will never come to an agreement with a country over a third country," he told in an interview with IRNA correspondent.

He also stressed that China follows an independent policy and will never be affected by pressures exerted by other countries. Guofang dismissed as baseless reports of American newspapers.

American press recently claimed that following talks of the Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian and the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, China was convinced to stop military cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran, Turkmenistan to Broaden Cultural Exchanges

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati deplored the "illegitimate" presence of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf and its military interference in the region. "The U.S. military forces with their presence in the Persian Gulf are tarnishing the regional tranquility and peace," he said in an interview with the CNN.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to defend its national interests," in the face of possible U.S. threats, he stressed.

Velayati said the visit by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov to Tehran was a turning point in the bilateral relations.

"As two important countries in the region, Iran and Russia can cooperate with each other for strengthening the regional stability and tranquility," he stressed.

"We had good talks about Afghanistan and Tajikistan. We signed a number of agreements, and we decided to expand our cooperation in the Central Asia, the Middle East and the Persian Gulf."

On Tajikistan, Velayati said, "We are very pleased that the joint efforts by Iran and Russia have achieved results which although preliminary are very important. We are very pleased that

an accord has been signed between the opposition and the government of Tajikistan."

"Under the agreement the two sides are going to continue their talks in Tehran shortly for formation of a coalition government."

On the U.S. allegation against Iran in connection with the Dhahran explosion in Saudi Arabia, the foreign minister once again denied any Iranian involvement in the incident. "The news published by some American newspapers was a sheer lie and unfounded.

And the Arabian interior minister said that no evidence indicating Iran's involvement in the incident had been transferred to the U.S. government."

More Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Return Home Voluntarily

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Mohammad Saleh Elmahimi, a provincial official at Baneh governorship, in Seman, Kermanshah Province said that another 1,500 Iraqi Kurdish refugees residing in "Sirband" refugee camp in border regions of the province, have voluntarily returned to their homeland.

He added that some 4,500 Iraqi Kurdish refugees still remain in the refugee camp.

Over 300,000 liters of kerosene have been distributed among the refugees in Sirband camp

since the beginning of the cold season.

Kurdish refugees fled from Northern Iraq to the Iranian border region following the assault jointly launched by Iraqi troops and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). Since then they have been settled at different refugee camps in Iranian border areas.



A group of Iraqi Kurdish Refugees

Birth Anniversary of Imam Mohammad Al-Mahdi (A.S.)

The One Who Undertook to Bring About the Truth

By Ali Amin-Nia, Deputy Director of International Institute for Adult Education Methods ...

The Imam after Abu Muhammad Hassan Askari (A.S.) was his son who was named after the Prophet of God, may God bless him and his family. His father did not leave a son who was either publicly or privately acknowledged, except him. He was born on the night of 15th of Sha'ban in the year 255 A.H. (869). His mother was called Narjis. At the time of his father's death he was five years old.

His father left behind his son - the one who is awaited to bring about the state of truth. He had concealed his birth and hidden his affair because of the difficulties of the times and the intensity of the search by the authorities of the time for him. This activity by them to inquire into his affair was because of what circulated among the adherents of the Shia of the Imams concerning him, and because of what was known about their awaiting him. Imam Hassan Askari did not make his son publicly known during his life-time and the ordinary people were not able to recognize him after his death.

God endowed him with wisdom and the distinction of speech. He made him a sign to the worlds. He endowed him with wisdom as He had endowed John the Baptist while still a boy. He made him an Imam while still in the state of apparent childhood just as He made Jesus, son of Mary, a prophet in the cradle. The nomination of him had been given earlier to the community of Islam by the Prophet of guidance (S), then by the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali (A.S.), and the Imams, consecutively one after another, down to his own father, Imam Hassan Askari. His father had

nominated him in front of the trusted and close members of his Shia. Information about his occultation was established before his existence. Information about his occultation was established before his existence. Information about his state was widespread well before his occultation. He is the leader with the sword from the Imams of guidance; the one who will undertake the achievement of truth; the one who is awaited to bring about the state of truth.

Before his appearance he will have two occultations. One of them will be longer than the other as it is reported in the traditions. The shorter of them was from the time of his birth to the end of the period of direct representation between him and his Shia, and the end of the representatives through death. As for the longer occultation, it will be after the first and at the end of it he will arise with the sword. God the Almighty has said in the Holy Quran:

"Let We desired to be gracious to those that were abased in the land, and to make them leaders, and to make them the inheritors, and to establish them in the land, and to show Pharaoh and Haman, and their hosts, what they were dreading from them." The Story 28:5 & 6

The Almighty God also stated that:

"For We have written in the Psalms, after the Remembrance, 'The earth shall be the inheritance of My righteous servants.' The Prophets 21:105

The Prophet of God said: "The days and nights will never end until God sends a man from my House, whose name will be the same as mine. He will fill the world with justice and fairness as it was filled with oppression and tyranny. If only a single day remained for the world, God would



lengthen that day so that he could send on it a man from my descendants, whose name is the same as mine. He will fill the world with morality and impartiality as it was filled with repression and despotism."

Among the evidence for that is what is required by reason through sound logical deductions with regard to the existence in every age of an Imam, who is infallible, perfect, and one who has no need of his subjects with regard to the laws and knowledge,

because of the impossibility of those given responsibility to act being without an authority by whose existence they may come closer to righteousness and further from corruption. Every one who is deficient has need of one

- who will punish criminals;
- who will correct the disobedient;
- who will quieten the seducers;
- who will teach the ignorant;
- who will remind the careless;
- who will warn those who

have gone astray;

- who will administer the revealed penal law;
- who will carry out the laws;
- who will separate people in dispute;
- who will appoint the military commanders;
- who will hold the frontiers;
- who will safeguard property;
- who will defend the land of Islam; and

- who will join with the people in societies and festivals.

The chief proposition in support of the evidence that he is protected from error is, by agreement, his own lack of need for an Imam. That requires his protection from sin without any doubt and by the necessity of the textual definition for every creature who can consider it as a means of proof and by virtue of the miracles which he performs in order to distinguish himself from others. The lack of these qualities in everyone except the one whose Imamate was confirmed by the followers of Imam Hassan Askari - and he is his son MAHDI - as the one who is guided and guides - is based on what has just been explained.

The Prophet of God said to his companions: "Believe in the Night of Decisions (LAYLAT AL-QADR). On it the command for the religious practice was revealed and because of that order there exists friends of God after me - Ali b. Abi Talib and eleven of his descendants."

Since the departure of Imam Hassan Askari many rulers though often despotic ones ruled the Muslim world. Distancing themselves from their religious obligations at best they turned to some forms of utopianism in their own interpretations of the word *"Jannah"* their never-never land. More often than not once achiev-

ing a tyrannical power in their cloud-cuckoo-land again at best they became dogmatic inflicting sufferings and untold hardships both in the name and often in the cause of their own definition of the interests of their subjects. This idealism has proved infinitely elusive. Of course, there are as many definitions of having the best interests of others in mind as there are self-protectionism. In general terms they connote totalitarian rule.

If the point was reached where they could part from religious authorities to ignore their recommendations of a humane code of conduct when ruling they imposed often irreversible social changes away from religion upon a minority or a substantial majority to whom such changes were intolerable, they thereby crossed the thin but important line separating mass support from scanty yes-men. Likewise, the heads of states of non-Muslim countries in their hocus-pocus government policies sweepingly rejecting unreasonably their people's right to morality resisted the recommendations of their own religious authorities labeling them as irreconcilable enemies of dream societies! No group of thinkers was ever treated with greater contempt than the men of God introducing people to religiously based codes of conduct. Alien heads of government pretend to have found a scientific method for the changing of Muslim societies on preordained lines corresponding with their own customs and habits of overthrowing social institutions such as marriage mockingly rejecting all other traditions as medieval and backward. The Islamic Republic of Iran is thus a natural stronghold separating alien-wisely-washy expansionism from Muslim innocent humane communities.

Dom Angelico Surchamp: A Monk, Painter and Art Publisher

Dom Angelico Surchamp is one of the most astonishing and engaging people that God and a love for art have inspired. He has been a Benedictine monk for fifty years and is also an abstract painter, a contemporary music lover and the head of a publishing company devoted to Romanesque art which celebrated its fortieth anniversary two years ago.

All Romanesque art lovers are familiar with the Zodiac Editions which form an anthology of Romanesque Europe that is unique in the world. This publishing company has brought out more than 160 different titles.

Father Angelico's account of the unusual path he has followed is among the Zodiac Editions. The work consists of a series of talks "Romanesque art, a meeting between God and men".

When, at the age of 18, he joined the Benedictine Abbey at La-Pierre-qui-Vire, located a few dozen kilometers from the famous Romanesque sites of Burgundy, Jose Surchamp (by his real name) who had, for several years, been painting and composing, found himself torn between his religious and his artistic vocations. He gave everything up to answer God's call.

But the monk in charge of novices authorized him to carry on playing the piano (one hour on Sunday mornings and a quarter of



The Great Adventure of Zodiac

But, in fact, the great adventure of Dom Angelico and the monks at La-Pierre-qui-Vire is that of Zodiac. It began in 1950 when the monks were asked to serve the parish of the magnificent Romanesque basilica of Vezelay. It was there that Dom Angelico discovered Romanesque art and revealed it to the visitors to the basilica where young monks organized exhibitions of contemporary religious art.

The public's reaction of rejection towards some pieces of modern art led Dom Angelico to try to explain it in a brochure called "Abstract Art" which, for him, is "purifying just as much for the creator as for the viewer, and has the power of bringing one into a world in which there is no disorder".

This was to be the first Cahier de Zodiac (Zodiac notebook). It was to be followed by a series of Cahiers on the important places of Romanesque art in Burgundy. These include Autun, Vezelay, Tournus, Saulieu and Paray-le-Monial, which a local bookseller had the idea of putting together in a single abundantly illustrated, bound volume.

Thus, in 1954, "Bourgogne Ro-

mane" came into being. New editions of the book kept coming out and it was so successful that soon further subjects were called for. The first new region to be covered was Auvergne and then all the other French provinces and soon other European countries.

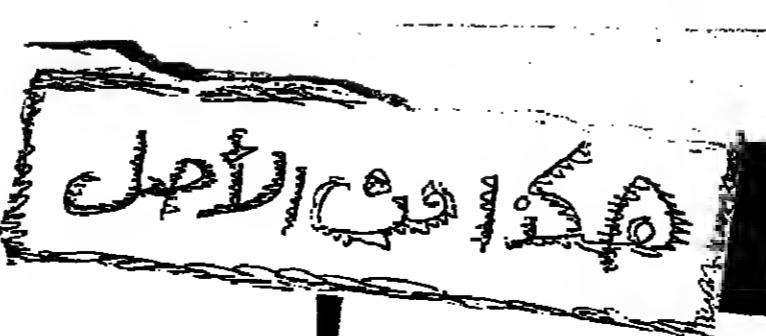
Since then, every year Zodiac publishes two volumes of that collection which gradually covers the whole of Europe and even goes beyond. Ten volumes have thus been devoted to Spain, to Scandinavia and to Portugal, and one to Switzerland, to Belgium, to Scotland and to the Holy Land. The series on Germany has just begun and it will be followed by Central Europe.

Sumpuous books have also appeared on monasteries in Europe, Muslim Europe and Chartres Cathedral, and other works on the symbols and technical terms of Romanesque art.

The books are printed by the monks themselves who also make the reproductions of the photographic plates, but the heliogravure reproductions of black and white plates, a technique which Zodiac considers as terribly important, is carried out elsewhere.

Father Angelico is no longer content to simply head the Zodiac

See Page 21



and able to inspire hope in even the most deprived among us? No, no, definitely no.

And you had the stars in the sky, the animals and shepherds surrounding the baby, and the three kings paying homage. These, the stars, animals, shepherds, kings -- were the symbols of the features and forces of the world to which Jesus was born. The same features and forces that dominate our lives today, the same features and forces that would make us win or make us lose.

So, as the manger scene is re-enacted a million times in million places around the world, let our families reunite and reaffirm our love for each other. Let us take back hurting words we said, let us try to heal the wounds we have inflicted, let us embrace the runaway, let us forgive the sinner, and, let us throw hate out, so love can come in.

the election last month of the country's first Asian-American governor outside Hawaii, Gary Locke of Washington.

Asian-Americans currently account for 195 of roughly 7,400 politically appointed posts in the federal government, which the consortium said is under representation of those of Asian descent.

editions. He has become a photographer and travels the roads of the chosen regions to find illustrations for his books.

He also continues to paint and, every year since 1960, has attended a festival of contemporary music.

For him, Romanesque art is "a typically Christian art, steeped in humbleness, a modest art without a shadow of pretentiousness and just as imperfect as life".

After fifty years of monastic life, combined with artistic escapades, this confirmed Benedictine monk who is convinced that "there is asceticism in true beauty", does not hesitate to say, "I have a bit of a grudge against Saint Bernard who considered that monks wasted their time looking at the capitals in cloisters. I find it harmful that he should have placed asceticism in the renunciation of art".

(Courtesy *L'Actualité en France*)

Iran will no longer have to import petrochemical products.

He said thanks to the steps taken during the First Development Plan our need for foreign currency will be halved and our needed hard currency can be met by half of the money gained from export of petrochemical byproducts" and added that there will be no need for foreign investment to launch the project.

Rahgozar said by March 1997 the nation will have paid \$1b of its total foreign loans (\$2.2b) and in 1376 and 1377 it will pay \$400m a year toward payment of its loans, so that by 2001 A.D. all of Iran's foreign loans will be settled.

Turning to the present yield of NPC, Rahgozar said the volume of our petrochemical byproducts will be 10m tons of which \$500m worth of goods will be exported

and two trillion rials will be sold domestically.

The 10m tons of petrochemical products are worth \$2b on international markets.

"During the last nine months of this year we produced 7.7m tons of petrochemical byproducts, of which \$340 was exported and 1.5 trillion rials were sold domestically," said Rahgozar.

According to the head of NPC, the company plans to produce 11m tons of petrochemical byproducts next year, which is the highest domestic ceiling, and 2.7 thousand tons of products worth \$600m will be exported mostly to the Far East, Europe, Central Asia, Pakistan, Africa and South America.

"Demand for our products is quite pressing and in the last one and a half years we have sold none of our products to any American company in response to the U.S. sanction against Iran."

Concerning export of technical and engineering services, the NPC executive said presently NPC is negotiating with Armenia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to build petrochemical plants and supply technicians, which will earn \$400m for the nation. We also plan to expand the export of technical and engineering services in the future."

Rahgozar said one main objective of NPC is to enhance quality and by March 1999 all petrochemical plants will receive ISO-9000 certification.

"NPC, built with far lower cost compared with foreign rivals and possessing superior proficiency, has great potentials to enter international markets and we hope by completing our strategic plan within the framework of Iran's overall plan for the year 2021 we can play a pivotal role in boosting our economy and industry."

Washington claimed that these platforms served as bases for military operations against international assets based in the Persian Gulf.

But Tehran said the destruction was not justified and that the United States intended to cause "maximum damage" to the Iranian economy.

to that of Salman Rushdie has been issued for the prosecutor, he noted. "This news was presented by the AFP without any consideration of its authenticity. Of course, this news was magnified and distributed by the press, reflecting how bad the latter engages in dissemination of misinformation."

"It also shows an attempt to present Iran in a negative light in Germany," he pointed out.

Steinbach noted that this event will not adversely affect the Iran-EU ties and added that from 1992 the EU has decided to keep up its critical dialogue with Iran.

The German scholar remarked that the EU is attempting to keep Europe away from the negative effects of the German court's ruling.

Germany should pay close heed to the fact that its strong reaction or attempt to sever ties with Iran might ostracize it in Europe, he maintained.

On the D'Amato bill, he said, "We will not submit to the U.S. legislation at the international level, for if this happens it will cause economic disputes."

Referring to the presence of foreign troops in the Persian Gulf, he said, "The U.S. will not launch

a military attack on Iran, adding that Iran's military presence in the region does not signify a military expedition either."

"The U.S. has for a long time tried to create the feeling among the Europeans that Iran is getting hold of nuclear weapons, but it has failed in this attempt as it could not offer any documents to prove its claims," he said.

World public opinion, especially that of Europe, negates any military presence in the region, Steinbach added.

The best way to ensure Persian Gulf stability is to set aside foreign legislations against Iran and also allow Iraq to gradually return to world politics, he concluded.

a demand Peru's President Alberto Fujimori has flatly rejected.

The guerrillas stormed the Japanese ambassador's official residence here a week ago during an official function to celebrate the 63rd birthday of Japanese Emperor Akihito.

The 140 people starting a second week in captivity include the president's younger brother Pedro Fujimori, three Cabinet ministers and three generals leading the fight against the guerrillas.

Also held are six ambassadors from Asian and Latin American states, and senior Japanese business executives. Japan, a strong supporter of Fujimori, has been targeted because of its alleged "interference" in Peruvian affairs, the guerrillas said.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said yesterday that the hostage crisis would take time to resolve and ruled out adopting a "get-tough approach" with the rebels.

then visit Dushanbe where he will hold talks on regional and international issues.

In the opinion of observers, Habibi's Dushanbe visit is of significance in the wake of the peace accord signed in Moscow between the Tajik president and opposition leader on Dec. 23. According to these observers, the visit shows Iran's support for the agreement which has been signed with the mediation efforts of Russia and Iran.

Iran and Tajikistan share common history, culture and language. During Habibi's visit, promotion of economic relations will be the main focus of the talks between the leaders of the two countries.

This is the highest level delegation from Iran to Tajikistan in the years after the independence of Tajikistan.

Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov has so far visited Iran twice.

To provide enough food for the growing population and to earn hard currency through export of agricultural products for expansion of this sector is not a remote goal considering our vast potentials. The nation can achieve this objective provided that agriculture is given the same priority like industry.

To sum up, by proper and long-term planning and enough investment, agriculture can regain its true status in the nation's economy.

Therefore, we must consider the above-mentioned shortcomings within the proper perspective, and take necessary measures to augment the strengths so that we can have a vital, energetic, competitive and growing agro-industry.



GAZA CITY, PALESTINE: A Palestinian woman holds pictures of her two sons jailed in the Israeli prisons Dec. 23 during a demonstration in Gaza City by some 200 women demanding to Israel the release of Palestinian prisoners according to the peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians.

(AFP Photo)

Arafat-Netanyahu Summit Ends Without Agreement

EREZ CROSSING, GAZA STRIP (AFP) - Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu broke off a summit meeting yesterday after four hours of talks with no agreement on the handover of Hebron to Palestinian rule, officials said.

U.S. mediator Dennis Ross said the "very thorough" talks yielded "real progress" toward an accord on an Israeli troop withdrawal from Hebron as required under the Oslo peace accords, but that more work needed to be done.

"We don't have an agreement yet, but this meeting was very productive ... It has enhanced the level of trust," he said.

"I am hopeful an agreement will be reached, but I still don't want to predict when," he said.

Ross said yesterday's meeting mostly involved only Arafat, Netanyahu and himself and that the full negotiating delegations are due to resume work today on trying to finalize an agreement on Israel's long-delayed troop withdrawal from Hebron, the last West Bank city under full occupation.

Mubarak Talks with Israeli Defense Minister

HURGHADA, EGYPT - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks here yesterday with Is-

raeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on bilateral relations and the future of the troubled Middle East peace process.

The talks with Mubarak coincide with a summit yesterday between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat aimed at finalizing an agreement on Israel's long-delayed troop withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Mordechai landed in Hurghada aboard an air force plane for the one-day visit and was greeted by Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamduh el-Beltagui.

The talks include several Egyptian officials, including Defense Minister Hussein Tamawi, Foreign Minister Amr Mussa and political adviser to the president, Ussama el-Baz, along with Egypt's Ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiouni.

One Israeli Soldier Killed, Three Wounded in S. Lebanon

TYRE, LEBANON - One Israeli soldier was killed and three wounded in attacks by Hezbollah guerrillas in the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in South Lebanon yesterday, security sources said.

A Hezbollah spokesman in Beirut said the militia had carried out two attacks yesterday against Israeli soldiers in the buffer zone between South Lebanon and northern Israel, causing "several Israeli victims."

"Our fighters fired at 10:30 a.m. (08:30 GMT) on an Israeli mechanized patrol on the Taibe Road," the Hezbollah spokesman said. An hour-and-a-half later, a powerful explosive charge was detonated on the Marqaba Road.

"The two attacks caused several Israeli victims," he said.

Bahrain Paper Lashes Out at Qatar

MANAMA, BAHRAIN - A Bahraini newspaper close to the gov-

ernment lashed out yesterday against Qatar on the eve of an expected ruling by Bahrain's State Security Court against two Qatars accused of spying.

The brothers in Qatar have had to resort to conspiracy and political maneuvers to attempt to escape the consensus of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC), Akhbar al-Khaleej said in an editorial.

The newspaper also denounced "Qatar's political adventurism aimed at thwarting Arab strategy toward the (Middle East) peace process and normalization with Israel."

Fahd Abdallah al-Bakker, alleged to be a Qatari intelligence officer, and Salwa Jassim Mahmud Fakhri, a woman he allegedly recruited as a spy, were arrested early this month and face a possible death sentence if found guilty.

Qatar, which said that any verdict would be null and void, accused Bahrain of having extracted confessions using torture.

The two countries have been locked in a dispute over the Hawar Islands for decades, but Bahrain boycotted the Persian Gulf Arab summit on December 7-9 because of Qatar's handling of the dispute and the alleged spying incident.

Qatar hosted the summit of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council -- with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates participating.

Lebanese Editor Arrested over Anti-Syria Attack

BEIRUT, LEBANON - The editor of an independent Lebanese daily has been arrested in connection with the investigation into an anti-Syrian attack last week, the newspaper said yesterday.

Pierre Attallah, the editor of An-Nahar, was arrested Monday night, one of scores of people detained, mainly among the Christian opposition, since gunmen opened fire Wednesday on a Syrian minibus north of Beirut, killing the driver and injuring a passenger.

December 25 Birthday of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Founder of Pakistan

Jinnah's Idealism by Dr.I.H. Qureshi

On December 25 every year, Pakistan observes the birthday of its founder, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Pakistanis gratefully remember the man who was the father of the nation and, but for whose leadership, they would still be struggling for asserting their separate existence because they were poor, comparatively backward, disorganized and unaware of their potentialities.

However, they had a sense of destiny and were violently opposed to absorption in the milieu of the South-Asian Subcontinent in which they had lived for several centuries. It was not easy to lead this mass of humanity to the achievement of independent statehood. It needed political acumen of a high order, loftiest standards of integrity and single-minded devotion to the great cause of rescuing an entire people from almost certain political extinction and subjugation by another people who had not forgotten or forgiven the fact that they had been held in subjugation by the Muslims for several centuries.

The erstwhile rulers of the subcontinent, now disorganized and incapable of asserting themselves in any field, could look forward only to the revenge from those whom they had formerly subjugated and ruled. The Muslims of the subcontinent were unique among all the peoples who had entered the subcontinent, in refusing to be absorbed in the Brahmanical traditions and mores of its inhabitants. What had prevented them from losing their

identity was their strong belief in Islam.

This faith they had tried to save in its purity. They had scrupulously refrained from adopting any belief or idea which would dilute their faith. They realized that if they permitted even slightest dilution, they could not arrest the process and, after some time, they would hardly recognize the face of their faith. This was their constant endeavour throughout history and it was this continuous effort that gave them their individuality and uniqueness. Indeed, this fear of absorption forms the very warp and woof of their history.

A DIFFICULT TASK

The task of organizing and leading this community was by no means easy, for one thing the Muslims were hyper-critical of any leader who sought their support. They were extremely averse to personal ambition, corruption and political deception in their leaders. They would accept only such leadership as might come upto their canons of ethics.

Such a man they found in Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He seemed to be so rational that one might consider him to be devoid of all ambition, yet those who knew him closely were aware of the great depth of emotion that he possessed for the future of his people. He, however, knew to keep his emotions under control and never worked under any pressure of passing emotion. He displayed throughout his life a supreme indifference to personal gains of any kind. If there could, in this century, be a man absolutely incorruptible, it was Jinnah. He succumbed to no temptation and showed unparalleled steadfastness in the pursuit of his principles. He knew no fear and it was impossible to cow him down by any



MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

means.

A POLITICAL REALIST

He was a successful lawyer and possessed a razor sharp intellect. He was a man who saw through all pretences and could not be hoodwinked. Yet he pos-

sessed an acute sense of time and opportunity. He knew that politics is the art of the possible. He knew that the Hindu community would not concede the demand for Pakistan unless it could be brought to a point where the Hindu should feel that they could lose the opportunity of independence if they did not come to terms with the Muslims. This could be done only before India had gained independence. He also knew that the British, who were in a position to play a key role in the final dispensation, were no friends of the Muslims and that their sympathies were with the Hindus. Their weakness was that they could not delay the finding of a solution of the Indian problem because they had come to the end of their resources.

Thus time was the essence of the entire effort and Pakistan could be achieved then and then only. And if the decision was postponed, it might never come into existence. It was for that reason that he had accepted a 'truncated' Pakistan, much smaller than was the due of the Muslims. Those who criticize Jinnah today are unaware of the situation that confronted him in 1947.

This would also show that he was a political realist who would not throw away what he could get then for the purpose of getting a larger territory later, because this 'later' might never come.

Because of his sterling qualities of mind and character, the Muslim community gave him complete support and that he became extremely powerful. Few leaders in the modern history have developed that kind of charisma.

In spite of his great influence

and power, Jinnah always remained a democrat. He observed democracy in its letter and spirit. He never forced his views on anybody and was always willing to listen to others' opinions and actually adopt them if he felt that they were backed by a majority.

He was an ardent supporter of the rule of law and civil liberties and a principle of his life. He respected the rights of the minorities and made every effort to make them real partners in the affairs of the country. He respected even the minutest regulations whether they were federal, provincial or municipal. Indeed the Muslims could not find a more law-abiding citizen in the entire country and this respect for the law Jinnah had acquired from Islam which gives no special rights or privileges to the rulers.

REVIVAL OF ISLAMIC LAW

Islam upholds the rights of the citizens - Muslim or non-Muslim, and the law remains the same during peace and war, during normal times and emergencies. Jinnah's idealism and thought were based on Islam. Jinnah's life and actions are likely to inspire other Muslim leaders and deserve understanding by the world, because recent happenings in many areas have shown that the Muslim masses are tired of every form of tyranny and want to enjoy rights vouchsafed to every citizen in Muslim politics, provided they are run in accordance with the tenets of Islam. The great struggle of the Pakistani people against the tyranny of the British Indian government illustrates this point adequately.

Asian-Americans Disappointed over Cabinet Exclusion

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - President Bill Clinton, embroiled in a controversy over foreign political contributions, is drawing fire from Asian-American organizations for failing to name a Cabinet member of Asian descent.

In a joint statement received Monday, several groups representing Asian-Americans criticized Clinton, whom they had pressed to name the first-ever Asian-Pacific U.S. Cabinet official.

"President Clinton missed an opportunity to make history by appointing the first Asian Pacific American Cabinet member," said the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium.

"We are deeply disappointed that the president again ignored the Asian Pacific American community," said Consortium Executive Director Karen Narasaki.

"We will carefully monitor whether he appoints Asian Pacific Americans to senior White House advisory or high-level subcabinet positions in the months to come."

Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Washington-based Organization of Chinese Americans, said she hoped the polemic over contributions to the Democratic Party and Clinton's political defense fund from Asian-American businessmen did not affect his decision.

"We hope that the current foreign contributions controversy is not adversely impacting the appointment process," she said. "We have qualified Asian Pacific American candidates ready and willing to serve this country."

In a letter to Clinton, the Japanese American citizens League ex-

pressed disappointment, adding, "We have been told by various people within your administration that the issue of campaign fundraising is in no way linked to how Asian Pacific Americans are viewed in the presidential appointment process, and we hope you will make sure that no such linkage has occurred or will occur."

Fifteen civic groups, from the decades-old Japanese American citizens' League to the new congressional Asian-Pacific American Caucus Institute (CAPACI), wrote this month to Clinton and requested a meeting with Vice President Al Gore to make their

wishes known.

Former Congressman Norman Mineta had been considered a leading contender for transportation secretary. University of California Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien and sitting Congressman Robert Matsui were also mentioned as possible Cabinet officials.

Asian-American groups had pegged their hopes on Clinton, who campaigned on an anti-immigrant platform.

The organizations were seeking a major coup for the nearly 10 million Americans who trace their roots to Asia and the Pacific, after

See Page 21

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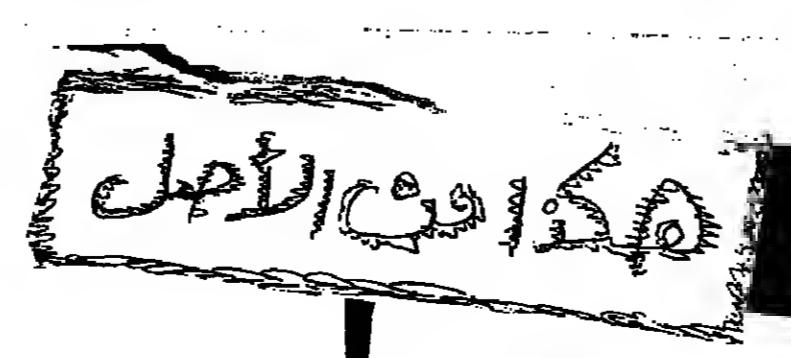
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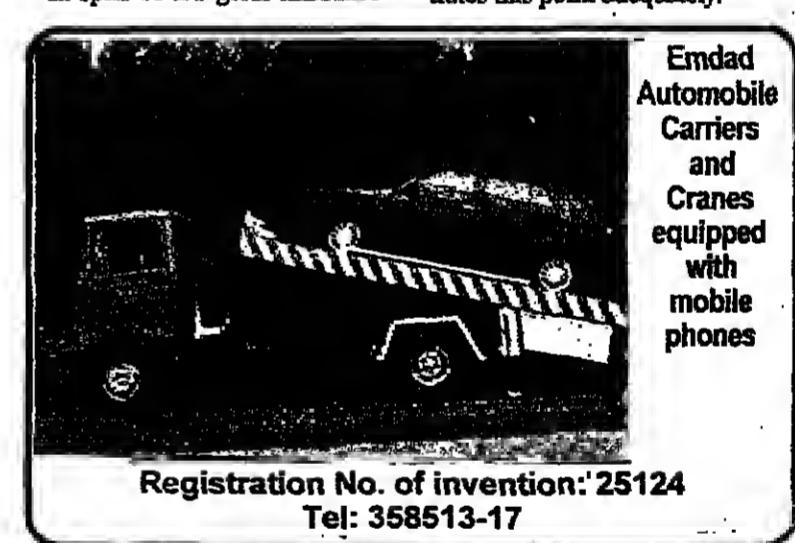
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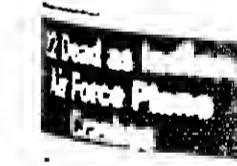
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KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - A large Taliban arms depot exploded in Kabul yesterday, killing one girl and injuring eight children from the same family, residents said.

"We had eight children wounded in our house. Three of them have been taken to hospital in critical condition," a resident of Khair Khana told AFP.

A 16-year-old girl was reported killed in another house.

He said there was a big bang and then a rocket hit his uncle's house while the family were taking breakfast yesterday morning.

"There was one big explosion in which a huge cloud went skywards, followed by some smaller bangs," the man said.

The explosions, in a Taliban military base in the northwest Khair Khana suburbs, were reportedly an accident. Smoke rising in the air could be seen even in the eastern Kabul suburbs.

Following the main explosions there were a series of secondary explosions, many of which were rockets which ignited and shot in the air, accidentally crashing into neighboring civilian houses.

No official figures regarding the total number of civilian casualties have so far been released.

Government Reshuffle in Zaire

KINSHASA, ZAIRE (AFP) - Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko yesterday approved a government reshuffle on the advice of Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo, an official statement said.

The main changes were the departure of the deputy premier and Foreign Minister, Kikita Tumansi, and the Defense Minister, Admiral Mavua Mudima, according to the presidential decree.

22 Dead as Indian Air Force Plane Crashes

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - An Indian air force aircraft crashed yesterday in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and all 22 people on board were feared dead, domestic news agencies said.

The aircraft, which took off from the southern city of Madras in Tamil Nadu state at 3:00 p.m. (09:30 GMT), crashed near Peddappalem village in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.

Saudis Charge Two British Nurses with Murder

LONDON, ENGLAND (AFP) - Two British nurses have been charged in Saudi Arabia with the murder of an Australian nurse, the Saudi Embassy in London said yesterday.

The British Press Association identified the nurses as Deborah Perry, 36, from the Midlands, and Lucille McLaughlin, 34, from Glasgow.

The Foreign Office had been pressuring Saudi authorities for information on the case since the nurses were arrested Friday in connection with the murder of Yvonne Gilford, 55, a senior operating room nurse at King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran.

Confront Corrupt Elements

Belgrade's Riot Police Crack down on Government Opponents

BELGRADE (AFP) - One person suffered gunshot wounds when rival demonstrators clashed in central Belgrade yesterday as baton-wielding riot police moved in to halt clashes between opponents and supporters of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Independent radio station B-92 said at least one person was critically injured when shots were fired.

Earlier several people were injured in clashes between rival groups as an estimated 100,000 anti-government and pro-Milosevic demonstrators gathered in the city center.

The independent Beta news agency added that a Milosevic supporter fired shots at a group of anti-government demonstrators who booed him. Police made one arrest.

About 1,000 riot police were seen being deployed in a no-man's land between the two camps, creating a buffer zone several dozen meters (yards) wide.

The opposition accused Milosevic of trying to start a "blood-bath" and urged their supporters to avoid any clashes.

Ignoring the plea, several young opposition activists were

seen hurling firecrackers, tomatoes, eggs and rubbish non-stop at their rivals.

Tens of thousands of opposition supporters have demonstrated daily for more than a month to protest at the authorities' refusal to recognize the results of November 17 local elections, in which the opposition Together Coalition won 15 out of 18 major towns and cities, including Belgrade.

The authorities have begun organizing their own rallies in response to the protest movement.



EEOTPAZ 24 DECEMBER 1995

SECTION



BAGHDAD, IRAQ: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, sitting far right, speaks during a Cabinet meeting in Baghdad Dec. 23. During the session, it was decided to issue Iraqi passports to any Kurd who is willing to have one.

(AFP Photo)

GIA Threatens New Violence in France

PARIS, FRANCE (AFP) - The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most hard-line activist movement, issued a new threat of violence in France yesterday, further raising tension already heightened by a terror bomb three weeks ago.

Without claiming responsibility for the bomb attack at Port

20 Women Arrested in Taliban-Held Afghan City

TEHRAN, IRAN (AFP) - At least 20 women have been arrested in the western Afghanistan city of Herat during protests against the rule of the Taliban Islamic militia, Iran's state radio said yesterday.

The women were rounded up during public demonstrations against the militia on Saturday and Sunday and transferred to prisons, it said.

Police Teargas BNP Protest March in Dhaka

DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AFP) - Police fired tear gas here yesterday to break up a protest march by thousands of supporters of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The protesters from Zia's main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) threw stones at

Royal Station on December 3, the group said "the events of recent days prove" their determination to bring their struggle to France.

The GIA had chosen "the path of killings and massacres. We do what we say. The events of recent days prove this," it said in a letter to President Jacques Chirac a copy of which was seen by AFP.

Two Dead, 40 Injured in Two Christmas Eve Attacks

WORCESTER, SOUTH AFRICA (AFP) - Two people were killed and at least 40 injured yesterday when three explosions ripped through the center of this Cape farming town as people were finishing their last-minute Christmas shopping, police said.

The first blast, believed to be a bomb, went off in the Shoprite-Checkers Supermarket and two hand grenades exploded nearby a few minutes later.

The protesters scuffled with police before retreating to nearby roads and lanes, witnesses said, adding some 7,000 people took part in the rally.

passing vehicles and police near the downtown Press Club, an AFP reporter said, adding some of the gas shells fell inside the club, briefly causing chaos.

The protesters scuffled with police before retreating to nearby roads and lanes, witnesses said, adding some 7,000 people took part in the rally.

and yesterday for the first time, a big pro-government rally was called in the capital for 3 p.m. (14:00 GMT).

The organizers chose to hold it at the same time and in the same place as the daily opposition demonstration, erecting a platform in the Terazije Square just outside one of the opposition parties' headquarters.

One and a half hours before the rally was due to start, about 100,000 Milosevic and opposition supporters had gathered in the square for the rival rallies.

Scuffles broke out as thousands of young opposition demonstrators whistled and hurled abuse at the Milosevic supporters, who included many elderly people, calling them "thieves" and a "bunch of reds."

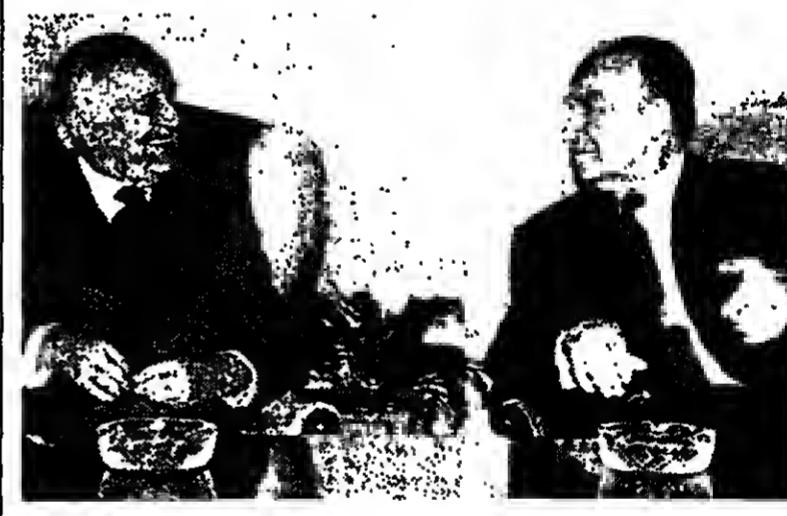
One of Together's leaders, Zoran Djindjic, appeared on the opposition party's balcony above the square and urged the opposition supporters to leave the square and gather instead 200 meters (yards) away in Republic Square.

Bosnian Serbs to Press Ahead with Izetbegovic War Crimes Trial

BANJA LUKA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - A Bosnian Serb court yesterday decided to press ahead with a trial in absentia of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, brushing aside international criticism of the move.

The court in Banja Luka, the biggest Serb-run town in Bosnia, decided after a preliminary hearing that it was competent to hear the case, despite pleas from the defense.

The court, headed by magistrate Dragica Glusac and including three civilian jurors, ruled that the full trial, expected to last a week, should begin on January 21.



SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who inspected Italian troops deployed in Bosnia as a part of the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR), chats with Alija Izetbegovic (R), head of Bosnia's three-member presidency, during a brief visit in Sarajevo, Dec. 23. The trial of Izetbegovic on war crimes charges is due to begin Dec. 24, but Serb judicial sources say that a complementary inquiry currently being carried out could either delay the trial or lead to it being adjourned.

(AFP Photo)

Six Civilians Killed in Algiers

ALGIERS, ALGERIA (AFP) - Six civilians were assassinated in Algiers' Babak district overnight, security officials said yesterday.

The announcement came after press reports said that Algerian security forces killed seven armed Islamic activists and wounded many others in a sweep in the Aïlou region, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Algiers.

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The World at a Glance



MOSCOW, RUSSIA -- Boris Yeltsin is not planning any dramatic personnel changes, his spokesman said yesterday, rejecting media speculation that the Russian president would carry out a reshuffle on his return to the Kremlin.

SRINAGAR, INDIA -- Three Indian soldiers were injured yesterday when militants exploded a bomb in the troubled northern state of Kashmir, officials said.

LONDON, BRITAIN -- A six-year old girl was electrocuted when she switched on electric Christmas tree lights.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA -- A Russian military plane belonging to the Federal Border Guards Service crash-landed on an Arctic Ocean island overnight.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA -- A landslide which slammed into a village in Papua New Guinea and may have killed as many as 38 people, reports said yesterday.

VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA -- A major fire broke out overnight at a Russian Pacific fleet warehouse on a base in central Vladivostok. (DISPATCHES)

Turkish Court Upholds Ban on Islamic Headscarves for Lawyers

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - Turkey's highest administrative tribunal has suspended a ruling allowing female lawyers to wear Islamic headscarves in court, the Anatolia news agency reported yesterday.

A department of the Council of State unanimously issued the suspension at the request of the Union of Turkish Bars (TBB) as an interim measure pending a definitive ruling, Anatolia said.

The Justice Ministry issued a circular in November allowing female lawyers to conduct cases wearing Islamic headscarves, a practice which had been banned by the TBB.

IRAN NEWS

San Francisco Beats Detroit

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Steve Young threw two first-half touch-down passes and Jerry Rice assured himself of another receiving title as the San Francisco 49ers defeated the Detroit Lions, 24-14 on Monday. The teams attempted to secure records and individual titles. Young, who played long enough to clinch the passing title, found tight-end Ted Popson for a first-quarter score and added a one-yard toss to Derek Loville. The 49ers, who will host the Philadelphia Eagles in the wild card round on Sunday, finished tied with Carolina for the NFC West lead but lost the tie-breaker after dropping both meetings with the Panthers this season.

Sports Highlights

China League Says no Infringement

BEIJING (Reuters) - Organizers of China's fledgling basketball league known as the CNBA said on Tuesday they had not infringed on the rights of the U.S. National Basketball Association (NBA).

The initials CNBA used by the Chinese League were based on its English language name, the Chinese New Basketball Alliance, and were not an infringement of the U.S. league's name, said the CNBA's organizer, Spectrum company.

The new organization has faced questions from supporters and detractors alike over the choice of its English language name since it is known in Chinese as the Meo's Professional Basketball League.

Zhong Tianfa, a senior Chinese sports official, said there was no attempt to capitalize on the better known American league.

"The logo and name are both different (from the NBA), so we will pay no attention (to suggestions to the contrary)," he said in a statement issued through Hong Kong-based Spectrum.

Chinese sports officials in association with Spectrum launched the professional league this year in a bid to popularize basketball in this country of 1.2 billion people.

NFL Coaches on the Rack

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The New York Giants fired Dan Reeves and the Atlanta Falcons sacked June Jones on Monday as National Football League end-of-season coaching changes reached purge proportions.

Four head coaches have left or been sacked since Friday, and at least two more appeared to have their heads on the block.



WAYNE FONTES

The Atlanta Falcons fired coach June Jones following a tumultuous 3-13 season.

Jones, a proponent of the run-and-shoot offense, was 7-9 in his first season in Atlanta and guided the team to a 9-7 mark and a wild-card berth in 1995.

Rich Kotite stepped down as New York Jets coach and completed a franchise-worst 1-15 season with a 31-28 loss to Miami Sunday. The St. Louis Rams fired Rich Brooks on Sunday night following a 6-10 season that ended with consecutive wins, including Saturday's 14-13 triumph over New Orleans.

Wayne Fontes may be coaching his final game Monday night for the Detroit Lions (5-10).

The Lions have dropped eight of their last nine games.

Fontes has taken the Lions to the playoffs in four of the last five years but has just one playoff victory. His best season was 1991, when he guided Detroit to a 12-4 record, a trip to the NFC championship game and was named the NFL's coach of the year.

Mike White of the Oakland Raiders may be another coach on the ledge after the Raiders finished a disappointing 7-9 in White's second year as coach.

New Orleans Saints interim coach Rick Venturi, who replaced coach Jim Mora at midseason, will likely not be asked to return. The Saints were 1-7 under Venturi and finished 3-13 overall.

SPORTS



FRANKFURT, GERMANY: (FILES) This file picture dated July 23, 1996 shows German player Matthias Sammer during the "Euro 96" quarter final match against Croatia in Manchester. National team sweeper and German champion Borussia Dortmund player, Sammer, will presumably receive the "European player of the year" award in Paris. Sammer started his career in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) playing for dynamo Dresden, and joined the German national soccer team after the German reunification.

(AFP Photo)

Liverpool Maintain Premiership Lead

LONDON (AFP) - Newcastle failed to gain ground in their race to catch Liverpool at the head of the Premiership at St. James' Park on Monday night in a 1-1 draw of blistering pace but also many squandered chances.

Honors finished even as Liverpool had the better of the first half, with Newcastle, led by the movement of Veteran Peter Beardsley, unlucky not to take the three points when he headed him 30 yards out.

Darren Peacock raced back towards the Newcastle goal to hook the ball clear but Fowler had been flagged offside.

Liverpool's flying start turned into early dominance, but there were chances aplenty for both teams.

Newcastle appealed in vain for a 14th minute penalty when Neil Ruddock blocked Keith Gillespie's cross near the left edge of the Liverpool penalty area.

Mark Wright earned a 28th minute booking when he brought down Ferdinand two yards to the left of the Liverpool penalty area.

Ginola stepped up to curl over the free kick and Ferdinand pounced to rifle the ball into the roof of the net for his 13th goal of the season.

James leapt high to his right to tip the ball onto the crossbar but it bounced down and Shearer pounced to rifle the ball into the roof of the net for his 13th goal of the season.

Two minutes later, McManaman broke down the left and with a clear scoring opportunity.

lighted for Liverpool.

"Whoever wins the championship will have to beat Liverpool."

Liverpool almost went ahead after eleven seconds.

Stan Collymore, beating three defenders from the kick-off, worked a quick one-two with Robbie Fowler, who headed over Pavel Smicer as the Czech keeper challenged him 30 yards out.

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Shearer was the next to threaten as his fiercely struck shot caught Wright's boot and looping over the crossbar for another corner which Newcastle wasted.

Liverpool clung on at the end, but with each game they look ever more equipped to become champions.

Morning Glory Races to Fit Replacement Mast

SYDNEY (Reuters) - The crew of German Maxi Morning Glory, favorite for the Sydney-to-Hobart starting on Thursday, were working frantically on Tuesday to install a replacement mast flown in from New Zealand overnight. In contrast, the crew of fancied Australian maxi Brindabella were doing some relaxed pre-race shopping having primed their boat for what many Hobart veterans think might be a race-winning performance. The black-hulled 24.5-meter (80-foot) Morning Glory snapped her \$304,000 carbon fiber mast last Saturday during her first training run off Sydney.

VOL. III, No. 637 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Wednesday December 25, 1996, Day 5, 1375, Sha'ban 14, 1417

West Indies in Crucial Test

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - West Indies will have plenty on their minds over Christmas Day dinner as they work out a way to salvage their disastrous tour of Australia when the third test starts Thursday.

Courtney Walsh's team trail 2-0 in the series for the Frank Worrell Trophy after heavy losses in Brisbane and Sydney.

One more defeat, even a draw, means that it will be impossible for the tourists to reclaim the trophy they lost in the Caribbean in May last year.

The tour has been a failure so far, with just one one-day win over Pakistan and a six-wicket win over Victoria in a four-day match this week and a seven-match losing streak.

Batting has caused most concern, with Trinidad left-hander Brian Lara only totalling 73 runs in four innings in the series, including just two and one in the second test in Sydney this month.

Apart from opener Sherwin Campbell, who scored 113 in Brisbane and Carl Hooper's 102 in the same test, the West Indian batting has been brittle, particularly the once-strong tailend.

The other concern is the potency of giant fast bowler Curtly Ambrose, who has three wickets in four innings.

"Ambrose just needs a little confidence, that's all," Walsh said Tuesday.

"As a team we're improving and we need to keep doing that. In the first two tests I thought we were in a position to win but didn't get oo with it."

Supporters are hoping the gradual improvement will carry through to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, but Australia signaled their strength when they opted to sack number three Ricky Ponting and bring in Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer into the 12-man squad.

Australia will probably release one of their batsmen to 12th man on the morning of the test.

The candidates are Langer, the unconvincing Michael Bevan, or possibly Greg Blewett, although he had a fine test return in Sydney as Steve Waugh's injury replacement hitting a confident 69 and an unbeaten 47 and taking a wicket.

Steve Waugh hit an unbeaten 186 for new South Wales in last weekend's Sheffield Shield match with Queensland and is back to further strengthen the Australian line-up.

What might save the nervous bevan is his new-found worth as a wrist-spinning back-up to star leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Although Bevan's highest score is 52 in four innings, he has captured five wickets and gets surprising turn on responsive wickets.

MCG curator Tony ware said the test pitch was a "result wicket". He predicted the pitch would assist both pacers and spinners from day one.

Evander Holyfield
Heavyweight Champion

Sulfatic Co., Producer of Vital Basic Materials

Company's Background

Sulfatic Co. Ltd. has been registered on Jun 21, 1966 under Reg. No. 10747 in the Department for Registration of Companies and Non-Commercial Firms of Tehran and according to the Section 2 of its Articles of Association, its subject of activity is discovering and exploiting of mines, manufacturing chemical and industrial products, and doing any kind of business related to its products, domestically and internationally.

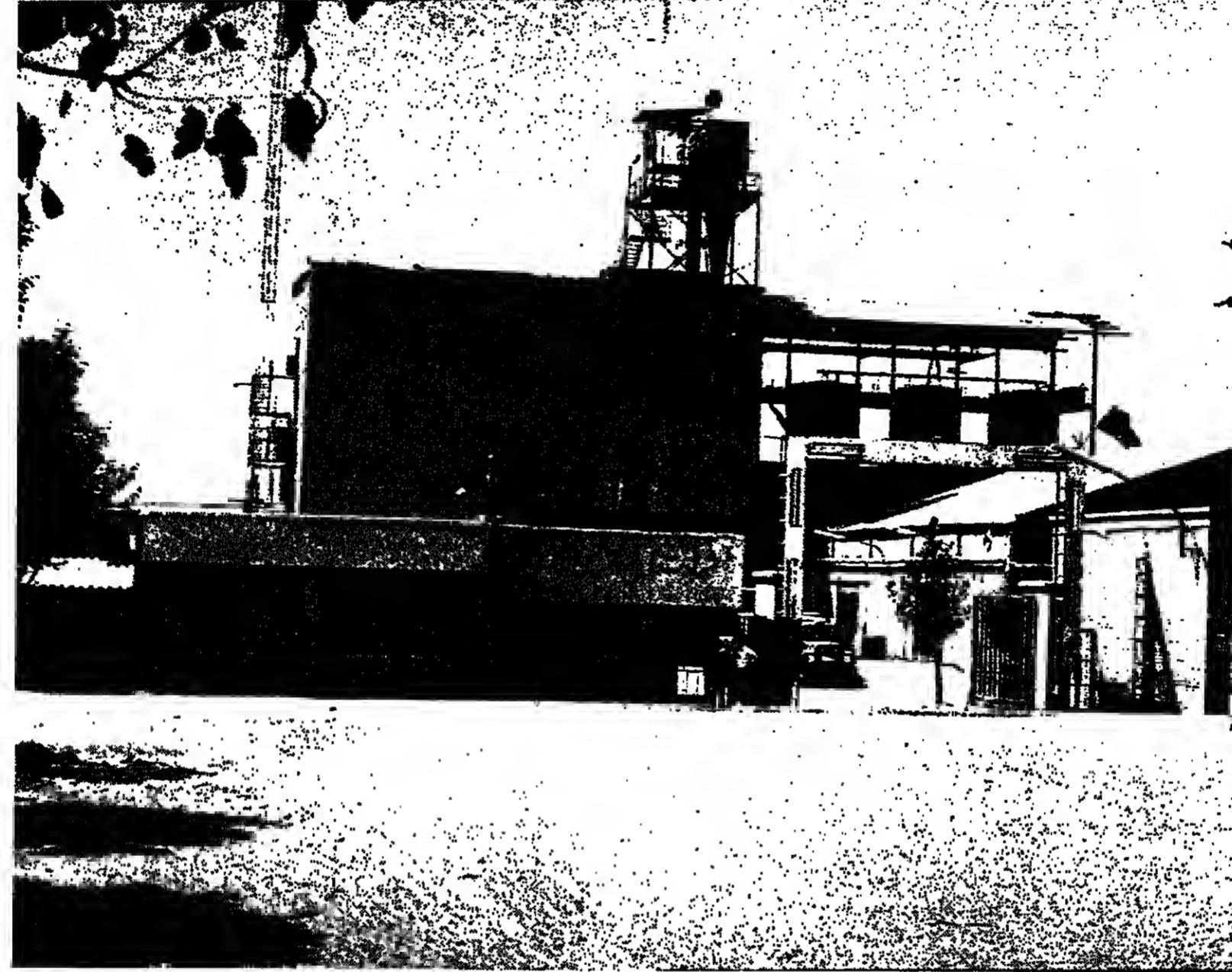
The dried sodium sulfate powder factory started its trial production in 1977 and has gone under practical revenue operation since 1978. The nominal capacity of the factory, taking into account the provision of basic materials, is 80 percent sodium sulfate and 10 percent impurities which makes it a total of 15,000 tons sodium sulfate annually as mentioned in the Ministry of Industries' License of Utilization dated April 28, 1986 Ref. No. 304291.

But due to the unavailability of basic materials with the above mentioned degree of purity since the early days of factory's running, German suppliers of the machinery handed over the factory to its shareholders with a 12,000 ton capacity and basic materials having 52 percent purity.

Considering these facts and researches made by the Chief Department of Chemical and Cellulosic Industries, the production capacity of the factory has been revised from an annual of 15,000 to 12,000 tons of sodium sulfate achieved by three working shifts. The amendment to the License of Utilization has been announced to the company from the Ministry of Industries Department of Utilization and Industries in a letter dated November 25, 1989 Ref. No. 258782.

Alborz Investment Co. holds 99.9 percent of Sulfatic Co.'s shares and also used to run the affairs of it as well. But in a letter dated January 6, 1984, Ref. No. 600-4380-90846 issued by Iranian Organization National Industries' Financial Department, the affairs of the company became Subject of Section C, Article One of the Law for Protection and Improvement of Iranian Industries. Since the above date until May of 1991, the company's directors ran the

company. Later and by virtue of the verdict No. 505 issued on February 3, 1991 by the distinguished Five-Member Board, the Article One of the Law for Protection and Improvement of Iranian Industries was dismissed from the Section C and based on the agenda of the special general board of shareholders dated May 20, 1991, the company was handed over to the shareholders. A board of directors chosen by the shareholders has run the company's affairs ever since.



A view of Sulfatic factory

This company is able to pass its technical knowledge and offer production design services, should new mines be discovered in other parts of the country.

With installation of the first factory for producing sodium sulfate powder in 1977, this company has provided the requirements of some industries manufacturing detergent powders, papers, glass, leather, ammunition, paints and so on.

Sulfatic Co. Ltd. was established in 1966 for discovering and exploitation of sodium sulfate mines and production of the pure sodium sulfate powder (Inhydrous). With installation of the first factory for producing sodium sulfate powder in 1977 near Chamburak Mine south east of Tehran, this company has provided the requirements of some industries manufacturing detergent powders, paper, glass, leather, ammunition, paints and so on.

Ministry of Industries subsidization.

Since the factory is running with the use and purification of all kinds of mineral salts containing sodium sulfate, any expansion regarding the production and selling the grains totally depends on provision mines which would:

a) have a rich degree of sulfate and b) be in an economical distance. There is a possibility for the expansion of activities if new rich mines of sodium sulfate are discovered within a 200 km reach of Tehran.



Mahmoud Tuiserkani, M.Sc., managing director of Sulfatic Co.

Since this factory is the only one which has produced sodium sulfate in the country till 1994, it has a number of necessary skills and has been designed and made by the German company "Mu Standard" with regards to the urgent needs of domestic industries such as factories producing detergent powders to sodium sulfate powder. This company is able to pass its technical knowledge and offer production design services should new mines be discovered in other parts of the country. Also there is the possibility to build most of the needed machinery and accessories domestically.

A joint investment in this field depends on the decision made by the general board of the shareholders.

For the assessment of foreign markets, this company's product has been exported to Pakistan and some Persian Gulf states in a few deliveries and although it gained appreciation abroad but due to increased requirements of domestic industries, all this product is sold in the domestic market for the time being.

Considering the vital importance of sodium sulfate powder and also the existence of the relevant mines in different parts of the country especially deserts it is necessary to discover and identify the mineral resources and establish its appropriate industrial units.

Following come the locations of Sulfatic Co. and its factory:

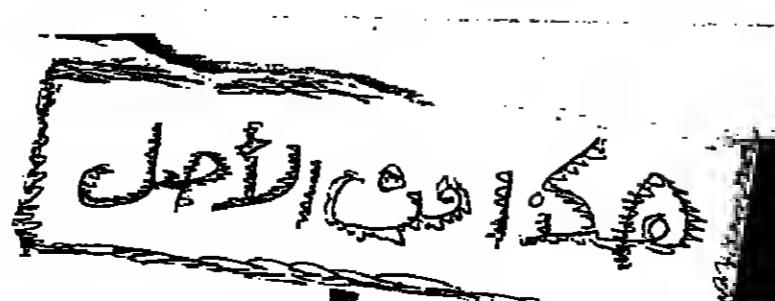
Main office: No. 247, Jomhuri Islamic Ave. Tehran
Phone: 618271 - 618250
Fax: 670461
Telex: 212516 TD
Factory: Qom Road, Down Kahrizak, Mehdi Abad, Chamburak Rd., Opposite of paste board factory



Water is circulated to the pond after the breakdown of sulfate



Basic substances for the production of Sodium Sulfate



Kayvan the Largest Food Manufacturing Company in Iran

KAYVAN

Kayvan private joint stock company, with 30 years of experience in the field of producing different types of Kaam sweets, is one of the leading and largest food manufacturing companies in Iran.

The company has two producing units in the cities of Tehran and Hamedan with an annual capacity of 15 thousand tons of various products. Well-equip laboratories are permanently engaged in research to improve and control the quality of the products in the different stages of preparation, production and packing, so the national and international standards are fully observed.

The factory in Tehran was established in 1965, and the one in Hamedan in 1975. A total of 800 em-

In the manufacturing of our products we have given carefull considerations to the cosumers' taste, savor, even packaging and public's favorite colors.

ployees, divided equally between them, work in both factories. The factory in Tehran has the production and packing lines for toffee, candy, powdered products such as jelly, and dried nuts and fruits, using the trade mark Kaam.

We had an interview with Dr. Moosa Zadeh, the managing director of Kayvan food manufacturing company. Below are the excerpts:

Q: Kaam products are a well known and desired name in the market. What do you consider to be the reason for this fame and great customer response?

We have always tried to use the highest quality in materials, technology, etc... in the manufacturing of our products in order to obtain quality.

A: As you have correctly pointed out, the products of Kayvan food manufacturing company are being marketed in Iran under the name of Kaam. The customers' positive response could be of the following reasons. First of all, the products of the company from the first day of its establishment have taken advantage of the world's most modern technology, plus the highest quality of raw materials have been used, and the technical know-how of production has been earned by using new sciences and techniques, and also the best of formulations have been done. On the other part, we never started producing without scrutinizing the market first. In the manufacturing of our products we have given carefull considerations to the consumers' taste, savor, even packaging and public's favorite colors.

products, for instance we produce our Jelly powders and Tong instant drinks with orange, lemon, pineapple, strawberry, etc... flavors.

Q: What are the factors guaranteeing the high quality of your products?

A: As mentioned before, we have always tried to use the highest quality in materials, technology, etc... in the manufacturing of our products in order to obtain

Here is the process, first tests are being done on the raw material and then after being approved, they enter the manufacturing process, there in the production division, even though all the necessary actions and preventive measures for the preservation of health and the avoiding of contaminations of the goods in the process of the work, have been taken, still this unit supervises the work throughout the manufacturing process. Also, the finished product is sent to the storage house of the manufactured goods and later receives the permit to be released to the market only after the approval of the laboratory.

These factors cause the product marketed by Kayvan food manufacturing

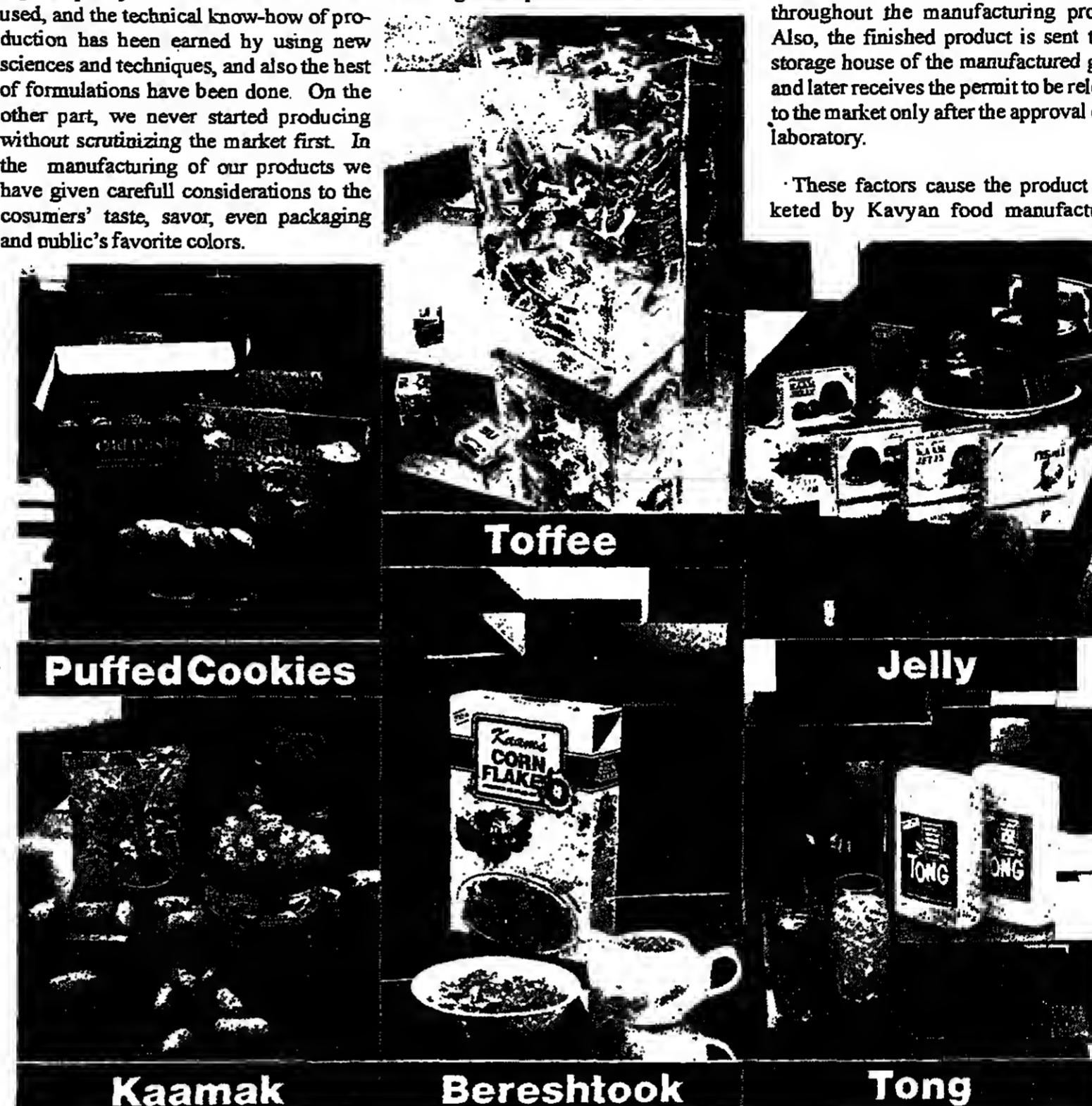
The hygiene and quality of the raw material and the finished product must be proven, and the place to prove it is in the laboratory and of course an accredited laboratory.

company to have the desirable quality, proven by its feedback from the market. Another one of our activities, to raise the quality of our products, is the programming for obtaining the ISO 9000 certificate which we hope to succeed in two months.

Q: How do you evaluate the market for your products?

A: The market for this company's products is divided into two divisions, domestic and foreign. The confectionary industry market in Iran is widespread, of which there is a large volume still available before it is saturated. Comparing to other countries, we still have a lot of work to do in this industry. There are many toffee producers active in Iran with a major portion of their products being exported. With our other products, there are also high demands. Of course, we should divide the Iranian market for these products into two divisions of current and potential. Although the current products are incapable of supplying the Iranian market.

See Page 12



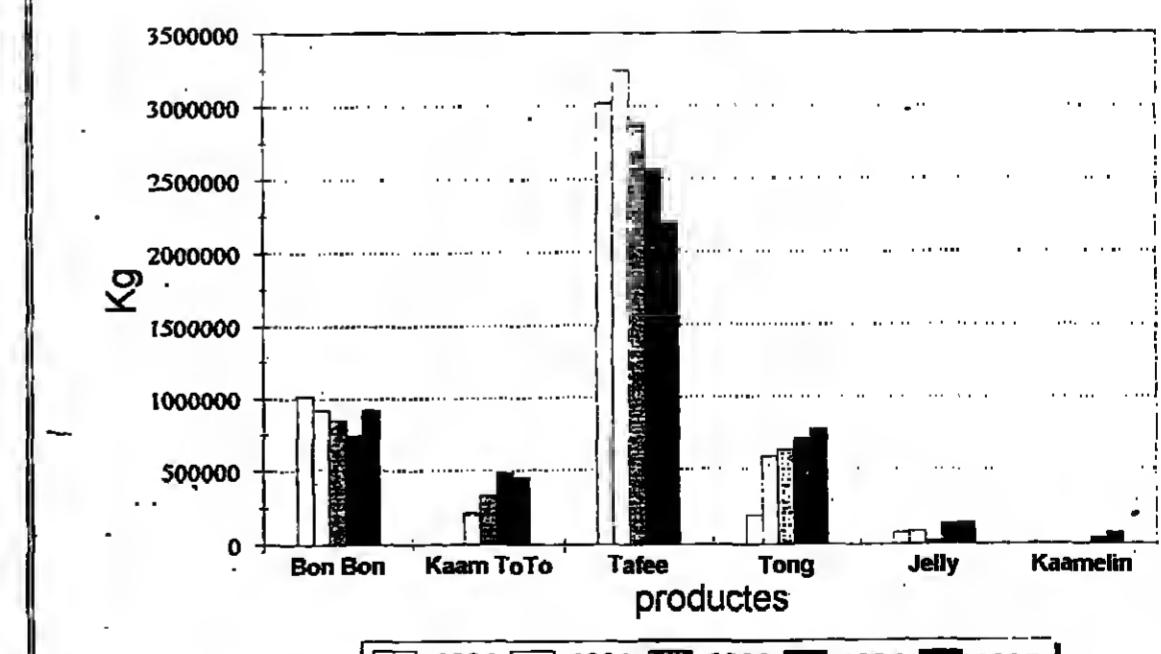
Kamak

Bereshook

Tong

Another one of the reasons for our success in conquering the market is the exclusiveness of some of our products. This company is the sole producer of Jelly powder and Tong (instant drinks) and Kaamelin (instant chocolate milk) in Iran. The variety which we produce is another important factor for the people's high desire to consume our quality. But these claims must be proven somewhere. The hygiene and quality of the raw material and the finished product must be proven, and the place to prove it is in the laboratory and of course an accredited laboratory. And since foodstuffs are very sensitive from the point of view of health and hygiene, the issue of their quality is of much more importance. The laboratory of Kayvan food manufacturing company is the only laboratory in Iran which has been authorized to conduct tests on foodstuffs by the Iranian Institute of Standards and Industrial research. The products of this company are tested throughout the manufacturing process by this laboratory.

**Keyvan Food Mfg CO
Tehran**



Kayvan Variety of Food Products Leads the Domestic Market

From Page 11
but what is more important is that a major portion of the Iranian market is still of the potential nature and untouched, and activating this market needs more work. To explain the topic further,

aware of them, as from the beginning a part of production capacity has been specifically allocated for the export to the foreign markets. I mean that the conditions of the domestic market never influence our foreign

Another important factor with consumers is the price of the product which must be economical and competitive with those of its rivals'.

tions governing them. As the result, in our company, we have an strategy of always allocating a part of our capacity to the export and we are aware that this is very important to our business partners and sometimes

KAYVAN

age the company's credibility gravely. We hope that the economic and export authorities of the country to pay more attention to this issue so we can stabilize our presence in international markets. The program-



Pistachio

I must add that most of these products have not yet been placed in the consumption basket of a major portion of the households and their advantages and usages are not yet known, and this issue needs advertisement. For instance, when we presented the market with our Bereshtook (corn flakes) product, many people were not aware of its nutritional value and usages, but, with milk poured over, it has been accepted as a complete breakfast by many households. Another important factor with consumers is the price of the product which must be economical and competitive with those of its rivals', for example, in the above mentioned case the cost of the milk and Bereshtook breakfast must be able to compete against a variety of other



Raisin



Kaam Toto



Kaamelin

nings should be in away that even the fluctuations of the strategic goods in the domestic market could not effect the exports. The stoppage of exports because of domestic needs is much more harmful than the import of the same product for the procurement of the domestic needs. We go through heavy expenses for infiltrating and participating in a foreign market, we make several trips for the recognition and scrutinizing, identifying the suitable goods for distribution, investigating customers to visit our facilities and the general situation of the company, and finally spend much on advertisements, etc..., before we can sign a contract, thus we should look at it in the long term and not allow its loss easily and we must

See Page 13

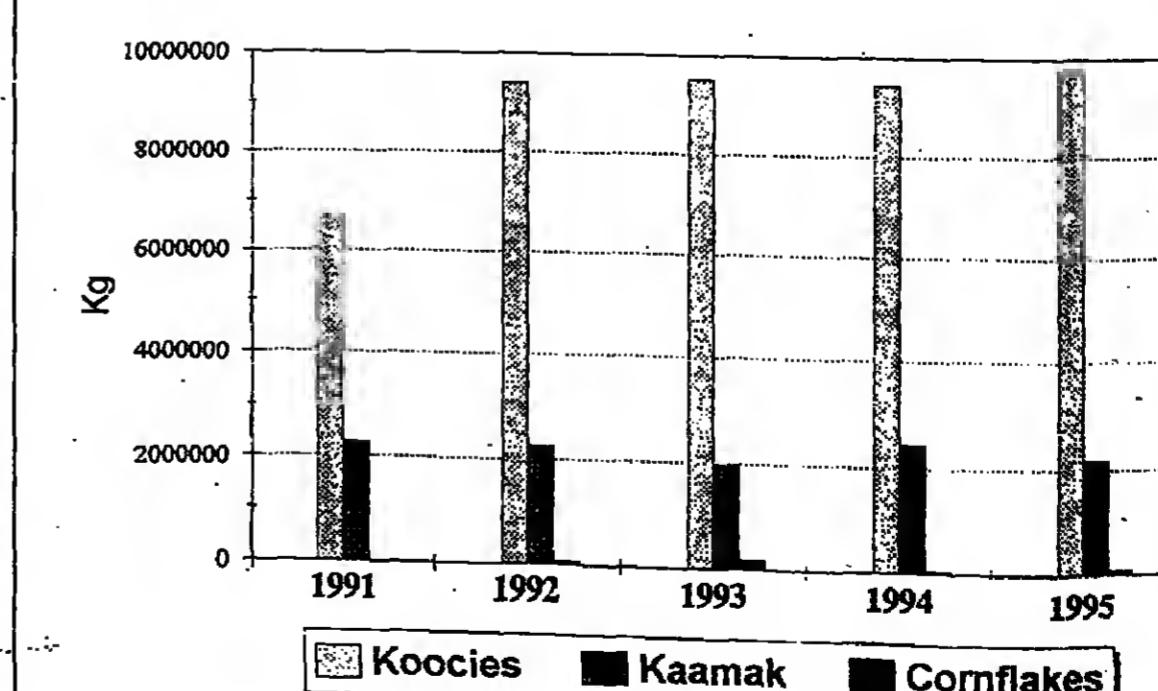
The laboratory of Kayvan food manufacturing company is the only laboratory in Iran which has been authorized to conduct tests on foodstuffs by the Iranian Institute of Standards and Industrial research.

breakfast arrangements. Therefore, parts of our products have their own special consumers, which we should work on increases in their area of consumption. Thus, we are doing our best in bringing the price of the finished products down and educating people on their advantages and usages. About the foreign markets, we have never been un-

with their demanded goods continuously. If shelves are kept empty, the rival will replace him and will not give way easily. On the other side, Iranian companies must face the internal obstacles on the way of importing goods, and after all these, we face the problem of the inconsistency of the law, for example, because of internal demand, the export of the

company's products are banned, and this causes the Iranian exporter and the company to easily lose the hard earned market and thus the credibility of the company and as the result the country is lost and regaining such credibility from the customer is very difficult if not impossible. Therefore, from our point of view the internal and external markets are one market, meaning all the regions that we have the possibilities of presenting our products to is our market. Naturally, since we are an Iranian company, we have the advantage of a rich internal market, so the domestic market has its priorities and that does not mean that we do not take the foreign markets seriously and not pay attention to the principals and the regula-

Keyvan Food Mfg CO Hamedan



JP/1/2000/50

Worldwide Export of Kayvan Products Due to Their High Standards

From Page 12

spend money for keeping it. Q: Considering the importance of packaging and its role in attracting customers, in what conditions are your products in this regard?

A: Packaging plays an important role in the success of a product. For as much as the content of a product is important, its appearance should also be beautiful.

Thus, we are doing our best in bringing the price of the finished products down and educating people on their advantages and usages. About the foreign markets, we have never been unaware of them, as from the begining a part of production capacity has been specifically allocated for the export to the foreign markets.

Q: Please explain the situation of your company's foreign trade during the last year.

A: Last year we had a total of one million dollars in exports. Most of our activities were performed on the markets of the central Asian countries and the Persian Gulf region. We have been most successful in the Azerbaijan, and Armenian markets.

We have also been present in the markets of the eastern European countries specially those of Romania and the Czech Republic. Generally speaking, we have divided up the foreign markets into several regions and through scrutinization, we shall do the necessary plannings for our presence there.

Q: What are the grounds and opportunities for cooperation between you and the foreign companies?

A: Our cooperations with foreign companies are possible in three divisions:

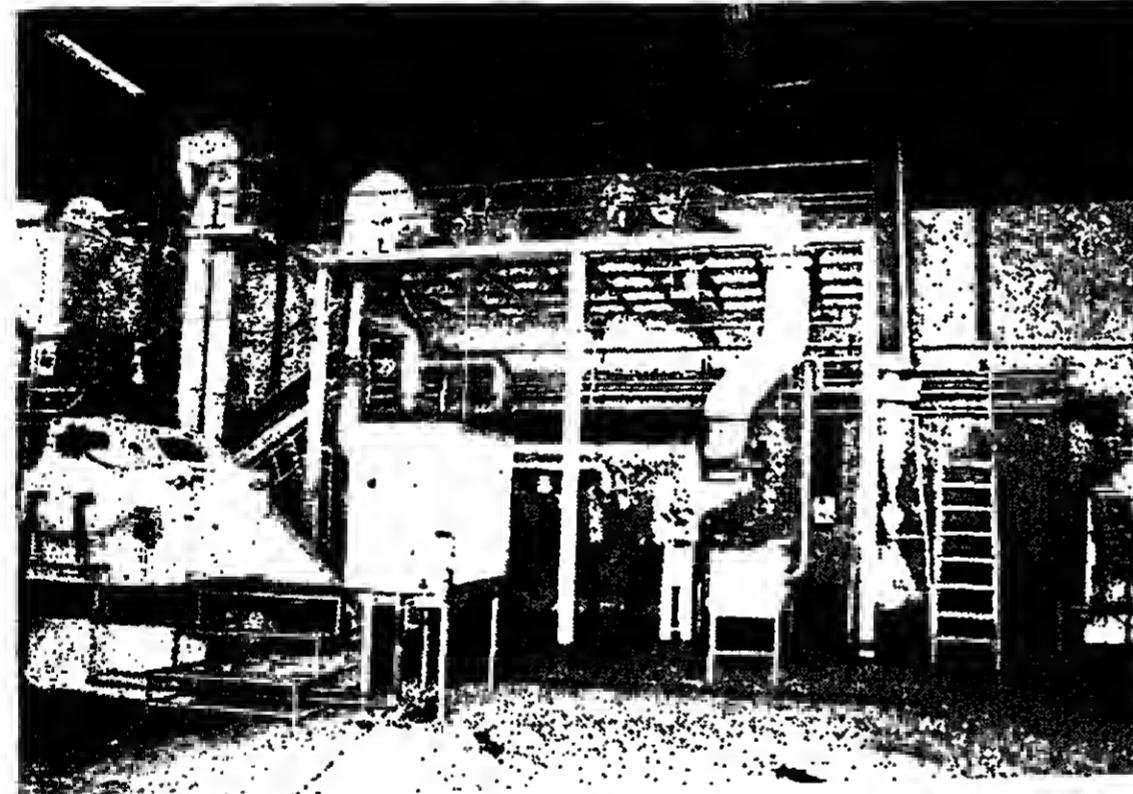
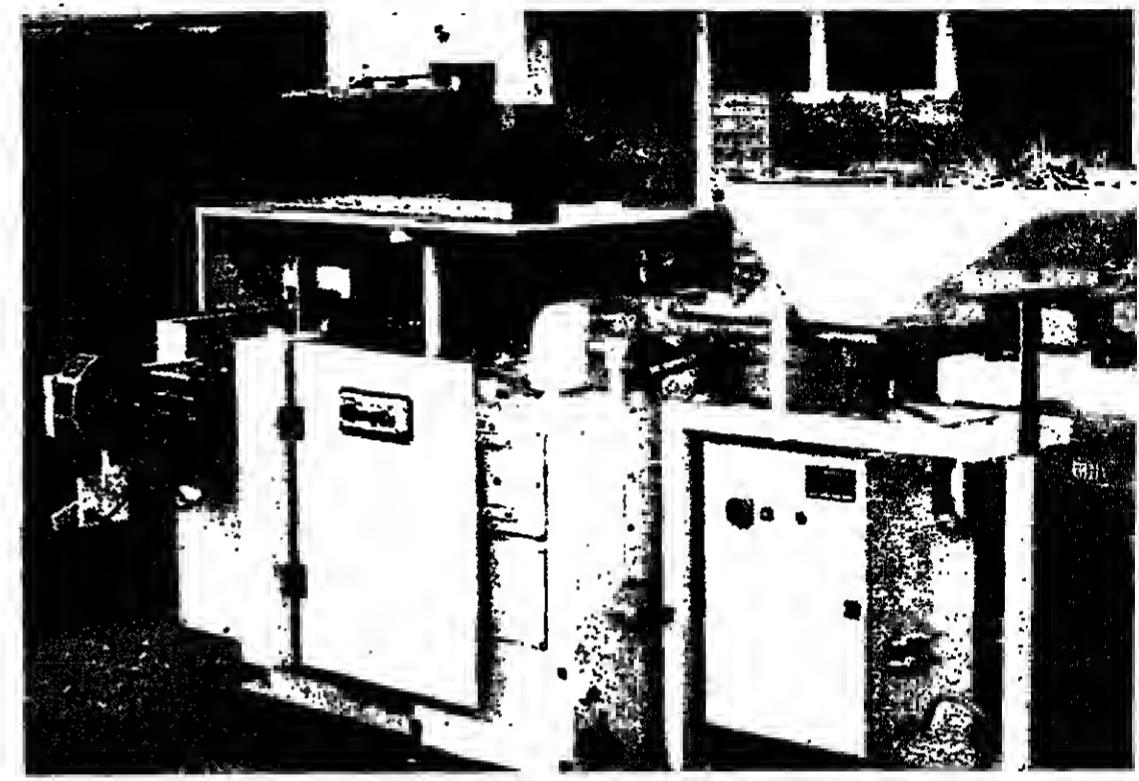
1. A part of our raw material is procured from abroad, foreign companies supplying these materials for confectionary could cooperate with us.

2. Another ground for our cooperation is the foreign sales or the export and marketing part that currently we are cooperating with a number of companies

the recommendation to them to invest in Iran, that considering the very suitable situation of the Iranian market, from the points of view of demand and the low

them in the Iranian and the region's markets under their trade marks, using the facilities of this company in the form of mutual investments or under their licences.

Last year we had around of one million dollars in exports.



nicely formed and colored, strong and attractive. According to our company's general policy, it is the customers' taste which tells us how to do our packaging. Some of the important factors which we consider in packaging are the durability and strength, easiness in transportation, color attractiveness and the nice formation which we add printing, design, directions to use and storage, etc... to them.

For instance, empty shelves are ridiculous, meaning the company should possess the capabilities to supply its customers with their demanded goods continuously.

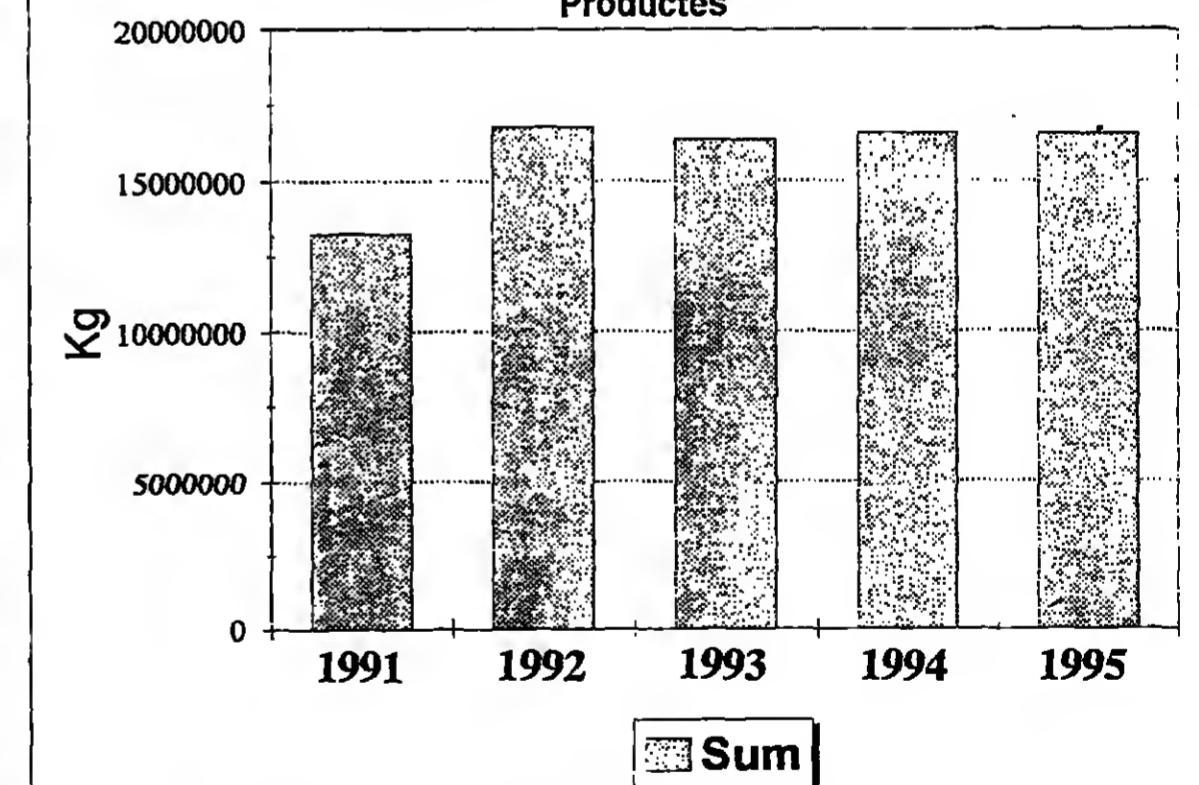
in various parts of the world, and we are interested in the expansion of this part of activities. We welcome those with possibilities for long term (not as a one party of goods dealer) cooperations in these grounds, so they can be active as the representatives for the sale and distribution of our products.

3. The third part of cooperation opportunities with foreign companies is

cost of the finished product because of the cheap costs of energy and labor force, and easy access to the regional markets (central Asia, the Persian Gulf), we are interested in inviting the companies whose products and positions in the global markets are premium to produce goods and distribute

Naturally, since we are an Iranian company, we have the advantage of a rich internal market.

Keyvan Food Mfg CO.
Products



Address: Kayvan Food Manufacturing Co.
Tolidaru St., Serah Azari, Saveh Rd., Tehran 13716 IRAN
Tel: 91031 - 66 28 358
Telex: 214 532 KAAMIR Fax: 662 8357



Tables
of
Ingredients
Used
in
Keyvan
Products



Bonbon

Flavors : Orange, Strawberry, Lemon, Banana, Mint, Raspberry, Milk, Pineapple, Black Cherry.
Packing : 1. Polypropylene Bags 2. Tin can
Ingredients :
Fruit Types : Sugar, Glucose, Citric Acid, Certified food colours and flavours.
Milk Type : Sugar, Glucose, Milk Powder, Vegetable Fat, Cocoa Powder, Vanilla, Salt, Certified food flavours.

Name of the Product	Net Weight	Number in a Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Dimensions in cms.
Polypropylene Bag	400	20	10000	10450	35x22.5x21.6

Raisin

Packing : Polypropylene Bags.

Product Name	Net Weight	Gross Weight	Number in Carton	Carton Gross Weight
Raisin	100	101.2	48	5,400
Raisin	1000	1003	10	10,850

Karmelin

Flavor : Cocoa.
Packing : Polyethylene Boxes
Ingredients : Sugar, Milk Powder, Cocoa Powder, Lecithine P., Salt, Vanilline
Ingredients : Sugar, Milk Powder, Cocoa Powder, Lecithine Powder, Salt, Vanilline

Product Name	Net Weight	Gross Weight	Number of Boxes	Carton Gross Weight	Carton size (in cms.)
Karmelin	450	510	12	6370	34.3x22.9x17.8

Tang Instant Drink Powder

Flavors : Orange, Strawberry, Pineapple, Lemon, Black Cherry.
Packing : Polyethylene Boxes.
Ingredients : Sugar, Citric Acid, Claudiofire, CMC, Tricalcium Phosphate, Trisodium Citrate, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Certified Food colors and flavours.

Product Name	Box Net Weight	Box Gross Weight	Number of Boxes in a Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Dimensions in cms.
Tang	865	925	12	10380	11350	34.3x22.9x17.8

Kaam Toto

Flavors : Orange, Strawberry, Lemon, Banana, Raspberry, Milk, Mint, Pineapple, Black Cherry.
Packing : Transparent Polystyrene Containers, Polypropylene Bags.
Ingredients :
Fruit types : Sugar, Glucose, Citric Acid, Certified food colors and flavours.
Milk type : Sugar, Glucose, Milk Powder, Vegetable Fat, Salt, Cocoa Powder, Vanilline, Certified flavours.

Product Name	Net Weight each	Number in a pack	Number of packs in a Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Dimensions in cms.
Kaam Toto	10.8	150	6	9720	13470	52.8x35x33.3

Bereshtook

The first producer of Corn Flakes in Iran.

Flavors : Honey, Coconut, Malt, Banana.
Packing : Polyethylene packs in cardboard boxes
Ingredients : Maize Groats, Malt extract, Salt, Sugar (Emulsifier, Stabilizer).

Product Name	Pack Net Weight in qms.	Pack Gross Weight	Number in Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Size cms.	40 feet Capacity
Bereshtook	230	283.5	20	4600	7682	55x40x29.5	800

Toffee

Wrapping style : Fold and double twist Wrapping

Flavours : Cocoa, Milk, Coffee, Malt and different fruit flavours.
Packing : Polypropylene Bags.
Ingredients : Glucose, Sugar, Vegetable Fat, Lecitin, Glycerin, Milk Powder.

Product Name	Net Weight	Gross Weight	Number of packs in Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Dimensions in cms.
Toffee	200	201.2	40	8000	8450	35x22.5x21.6
Toffee	400	404	25	10000	10450	35x22.5x21.6

Jelly

Packing : Polypropylene Bags.

Ingredients : Corn Grits, Vegetable Fat, Milk Powder, Cheese Powder, Salt, Beta Carotene, Certified food color (Sunset Yellow).

Product Name	Pack Net Weight	Pack Gross Weight	Number in Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Size cms.	Container capacity
Kaamak	20	21.3	40	800	1350	50x34x12	3000

Puffed Cookies

Flavors : Vanilla, Cinnamon, Ginger, Cardamons.

Packing : Cardboard Boxes With Polystyrene dividers on the inside.

Ingredients : Wheat Flour, Sugar, Vegetable Fat, Egg, Glucose, Sodium Bicarbonate, Corn Flour, Salt, Malt Extract, Vanilline.

Product Name	Carton Net Weight (pack)	Number of packs in a Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Dimensions in cms.	Container Capacity
Puffed Cookies	250	12	3000	4514	47x32x17	1100
Puffed Cookies	500	8	4000	5474	47x32x17	1100

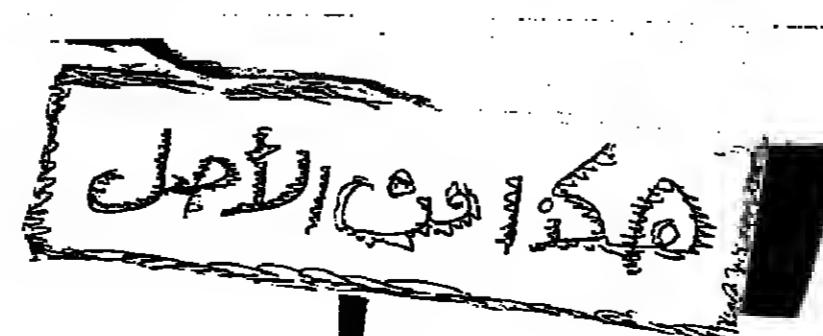
Pistachio

This product is roasted and salted through a special method.

Type of Pistachio : Normal size is 24-26 in OZ. could be altered to suit the order.

Packing : Vacuum easy open tin can polypropylene bags.

Product Name	Box Net Weight	Box Gross Weight	Number of Boxes in a Carton	Carton Net Weight	Carton Gross Weight	Carton Dimensions in cms.
Pistachio Box	250	350	24	6000	8730	42x31.5x18.5
Pistachio Box	500	655	12	6000	8190	42x31.5x18.5
Pistachio Propylene Bag	100		50	5000	5450	50.3x34x12





IRAN PYEVAR TRADING COMPANY, A PIONEER IN EXPORT/IMPORT



A. Volume of export:

The board of directors of Iran Pyevar Trading Company (IPTC) which is an export institute affiliated to 15 Khordad Foundation and Alborz Investment Group divided its operation into two parts during 1374 (1995/96) fiscal year and continued its operations in keeping with its set targets and objectives and the policies and goals of the Islamic Republic.

Despite the problems in production and export of products and changing regulations on the export of commodities, IPTC succeeded to export 4.2 million dollars worth of commodities and the management of the company hope to march on its pre-targeted programs and increase the ceiling of export.

B. History of establishment of

IPTC:

IPTC was established in Tehran on June 28, 1987 under registration No. 66178 for domestic and foreign trade export of the products of companies affiliated to Alborz Investment Company and 15 Khordad Foundation.

C. Company's objectives:

According to the articles of association of the company, the following are the main objectives of IPTC:

1. Export of different domestically manufactured industrial, mineral, agricultural products, etc.

2. Import of all kinds of foreign raw material, machinery and spare parts.

3. Domestic and foreign marketing for sale or purchase of different films, brochures and catalogs.

4. Participation in other companies by issuing stock or underwriting or guaranteeing the stocks of new born companies.

5. Performing brokerage service, clearing goods from customs and handling all customs formalities within the range of the company's scope of operation.

6. Purchase and sale of different domestic and foreign made products and commodities within and outside the country.

7. The company is capable

of handling all financial, commercial and manufacturing operations directly and indirectly related to the subjects raised above.

D. Ownership:

IPTC is one of the companies affiliated to Alborz Investment Company and its stock ownership status is as follows:

S/N. Shareholders
No. of stocks Total percentage

1. Alborz Investment Co.	29991	99/97
2. Tolipers	3	0/01
3. Pakhshalborz	3	0/01
4. Tolidaru	3	0/01

E. The following are the organization structure of IPTC:

1. Members of the board and managing director.

2. Commercial Department

3. Fair Department
4. Financial Department
5. Administrative Department

The board of directors in 1374 were as follows:

1. Mohammad Saneyi, chairman of the board - reinstated

2. Mohammad Ali Seifoddini, member of the board - reinstated

3. Mohammadreza Abidi, member of the board and managing director - reinstated

4. Abolqasem Pourteimouri, member of the board effective 27/2/73.

5. Seyed Ali Seyed Madani, member of the board effective 27/2/73.

F. Commercial activities:

The commercial activities of IPTC in 1374 in domestic and foreign trade was divided into two parts. The first part was related to the period when because of prohibition of export of detergent, the company concentrated on export of other products and explored markets for new products. In this connection the company took big steps for export of raw material such as acids, caustic soda, manufactured products (such as stone), pistachio, toothpaste, shampoos and foodstuff (pickled cucumber, chocolate, sweets), etc. and to its operation was successful.

The second part of IPTC's operation is related to acquisition of periodical permits from the Ministry of Commerce for export of Darya detergent. At one stage the commercial department of IPTC acquired permit for export of 950 tons Darya powder from the Ministry of Commerce and exported it.

In a second stage after much efforts the board of directors succeeded to acquire permit for export of 12 thousand tons Darya powder by temporarily importing raw material. That Department imported 1 thousand tons polyphosphate and 100 tons C.M.C. and exported 3 thousand tons Darya powder.

The following are important activities of the Commercial Department of IPTC during 1374:

a. Marketing:

Marketing and identification of consumption markets for non-oil products in other countries from the point of view of product quality, nature of packaging, volume of consumption in these markets and continued communication with customers, are important factors for a successful commercial exporter of goods.

Profiting from the propaganda launched in previous years and by regularly communicating with customers and creating good will and trust among customers, the Commercial Department of Iran Pyevar Trading Company has faced no problems in its marketing. Although, obsessed with limitations in export which has led to stoppage in export of powder and seizure of markets by foreign rival companies such as the Turkish Bingoy Co., due to good reputation of Darya powder and customers' trust on the superior quality of Darya detergent powder in other countries particularly the newly independent Central Asian republics, once IPTC acquired permit for export of Darya it received many requests from its customers.

As a result, in keeping with the goals and policies of the Islamic Republic and the relevant export/import regulations, the company has attained its desired objectives and has stepped up its commercial

activities.

The following is a summary of the activities of IPTC in the export of commodities and organizing and participating in domestic and foreign trade fairs in 1374:

1. Second Fair on Foodstuff and Agricultural Industries in Iran:

The Second Fair on Foodstuff and Agricultural Industries in Iran commenced on May 8 to May 11, 1975 with the assistance of Export Promotion Center of Iran in Tehran International Trade Fair's permanent grounds with the participation of Keyvan, Mahnam, Afshoreh and Peyazar food processing companies. In this fair the Pyevar Fair Group took necessary steps for renting pavilions and arranged for their decoration and preparation. During the fair extensive marketing for foodstuff was done and the company officials made lots of effort for introduction of exportable foodstuff produced by the companies represented by IPTC.

The second Fair of Foodstuff and Agricultural Industries was quite satisfactory in terms of foreign and domestic trade.

By observing economy, the total money spent by Payavar Company was 8.8 million rials which was the minimum money that could be used without lowering the quality of works.

2. Second Special Regional Trade and Industrial in Anzali:

With the assistance of Gilan Fair and Trade Complex affiliated to the Gilan Province and Gilan Development Organization, the first regional specialized trade and industrial fair in Anzali was held in the Municipality Park in that town from August 20 to 31, 1995. Despite shortcomings such as scarcity of booths and sultry weather in Gilan, IPTC, representing Alborz Investment Co. and 15 Khordad Foundation affiliated companies, successfully participated in that fair.

With the cooperation of representatives of these companies, IPTC arranged for introduction and marketing and sale of these companies. Fortunately due to favorable economic and geographical

situation of the region and presence of representatives from the newly independent republics many new customers were gained by the IPTC. Meanwhile in spite of full and broad representation, IPTC spent only 2.6 million rials which was the minimum amount that the company could use without reducing the quality of its work.

3. Twenty First Tehran International Trade Fair:

As is customary every year, all companies covered by 15 Khordad Foundation and Alborz Investment Group were represented in the Tehran International Trade Fair last year (1374) and by making necessary coordination, Iran Pyevar Trading Company succeeded to occupy 482 sq. m fair grounds in Germany's Pavilion for representation of its host companies. After preparing necessary drawings, building booths and making a uniform and harmonious presentation of 15 Khordad and Alborz group companies and beautification of the fair, the exhibitions were successfully launched.

In this fair representatives from Tolipers, Toliddar, Keyvan, Pakhshalborz, Sepand, Technosanaye, Pyevar, Alumerval, IPTC, Mahnam, Afshoreh, Peyzar, Sanjandar, Irandar as well as Iranian chemical, technical and industrial products manufactured by the Alborz Investment Group affiliated companies were present.

Due to broad participation of these companies and presentation of diversified products which had greatly improved from the point of quality compared to former years, marketing was performed in a satisfactory manner and approximately 15 large and small domestic and foreign commercial companies became customers of Iran Pyevar Trading Company. The total money spent by Pyevar for this fair amounted to 134.5 million rials and its operation was quite exemplary.

Export of Goods:

Despite the fact that prohibitions imposed by the government on export of goods resulted in the loss of consuming markets, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the

board of directors of IPTC, the company succeeded to export 4,730,000 dollars worth of goods whereas if no restrictions had been imposed by the government for export, IPTC could have exported about 10 million dollars worth of commodities. Benefiting from the positive factors in its hands i.e. the correct and comprehensive management system in the 15 Khordad Foundation and Alborz Investment Company and having extensive experience and expertise in preserving its markets by making necessary coordination and communication with its customers and persuading its customers not to trade on rival products. IPTC succeeded to become one of the most successful exporters in the country.

In 1374 (1995/96) Iran Pyevar Trading Co. used the following methods for export of commodities:

a. Export by directly clearing goods from customs in the country.

b. Export by direct selling the goods.

With regard to volume of export in 1374 fiscal year and previous years, it is necessary to note that profit registered in the company's ledgers prove that the producing companies have made considerable gains which they would not have made had they not exported their goods or had they not been represented by Iran Pyevar Trading Company. Thanks to its many years of experience and expertise and by possessing a well trained marketing team, IPTC was a great help in exporting its customers' products. For example Tolipers Company pocketed 252 million rials profit from selling 3,600 tons Darya powder in 1374 thanks to the successful marketing launched by Iran Pyevar trading Company. Besides these profits companies working with IPTC benefited from our privileges such as speedy acquisition of permits for export of their commodities and import of raw material by IPTC at the shortest possible time.

Tolidaru Bldg. 247 Jomhuri Islami Ave., Hafez intersection, Tehran 11354 P.O.Box: 11365/3533 Tel: 6181, 618268-70 Fax: 670217, Telex: 223694 IPTC IR



Tolid Daru Company

TOLID DARU (TD) is one of the greatest pharmaceutical industries which was established in 1957. This foundation has a wide range of pharmaceutical, cosmetic, hygienic products and nutritional supplements.

TOLID DARU is based meters 78000 square on employing 1200 staffs. **TOLID DARU** produces about 85 medicines under their generic names, according to the international pharmacopoeial standards such as BP and USP. More than 33 % of the staffs are pharmacists, chemists and scientists.

TOLID DARU is an internationally oriented company with worldwide exportation of its products to the CIS, Eastern Europe, Africa and to the neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, etc.

TOLID DARU has different manufacturing departments including:

1. LIQUIDS, SEMI-SOLIDS AND STERILS

2. SOLIDS

3. ANTIBIOTICS

which are contributing to the manufacturing of products. The laboratory and research

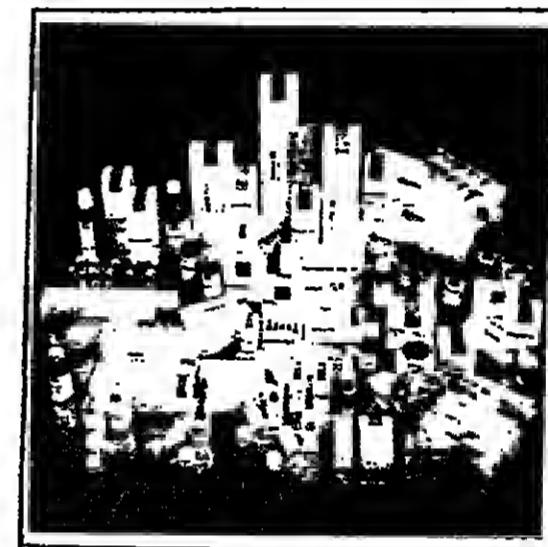
departments are occupying 1300 Sq.m. with the following divisions:

APPLIED RESEARCH & FORMULATION

BASIC RESEARCH

PILOT PLANT

QUALITY CONTROL & MICROBIOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Techno-Sanaye Industries Co., Famous in Industrial and Service Area



age of your pharmaceutical, hygienic, foodstuff products, etc.

Transportation Services:

The transportation department of Techno-Sanaye Industries Co. possesses 50 roofed containers and IVECO and Benz truck trailers for distribution of pharmaceutical, hygienic, chemical and foodstuff products throughout the country.

Factory Services:

Techno-Sanaye Industries Co. has long experience in the transportation of the employees of Alborz Investment Group Companies and for cooking and serving food to these personnel, and uses the most modern cooking utensils and hygienic food-stuff.

TSIC's Major Activities:

With more than 30 years background, Techno-Sanaye Industries Co. is considered one of the most valid industrial service institutions in the country with more than 600 well-trained technicians and service personnel.

TSIC's major activities includes printing, fabrication of cartons, design and manufacturing of different machinery needed for pharmaceutical, chemical and hygienic products manufacturing companies, design and fabrication of metal pieces, rendering warehousing services, road transportation, cooking and serving foodstuff, sewing work uniforms and urban transportation, etc.



Techno-Sanaye Industries Co. Ltd. (TSIC), established in March 1966 under registration No. 10559, has 30 years of experience in the fabrication of machinery for industrial and pharmaceutical factories and is one of the most famous industrial and service corporations in the country. TSIC, affiliated to the 15 Khorad Foundation, is right now operating with a 200-million-rial paid capital and the company's 600 personnel in its different workshops are operating in an area of 34 thousand sq. m in various industrial and service fields.

The major fields of operation of Techno-Sanaye Industries Co. (TSIC) is manufacturing metal pieces and spare parts for industrial and agricultural machinery, different metal pieces, metal cabs for trucks, transportation trailers, warehouse metal equipment, electrical equipment and services, fabrication of plastic containers, etc. Besides TSIC specializes in providing different printing services, fabrication of cartons and expertise warehousing services.

Depending on its vast technical know-how and experienced personnel, TSIC is prepared to render the best service with superior quality to the nation's industry.

Printing Services:

Having more than 35 years experience and possessing the best facilities and equipment, TSIC's printing department is active in printing and processing different films, printing on plastic containers, printing on cartons and fabric-

cartons, different packaging cartons, printing and cutting labels, brochures, etc. and right now is performing the major part of printing, carton fabrication and packaging services for the Alborz Investment Group Companies, Daroupkhsh Co., Pakvish Co.,

Shahrood companies and Amin's Chemical Pharmaceutical Co.

Technical Services:

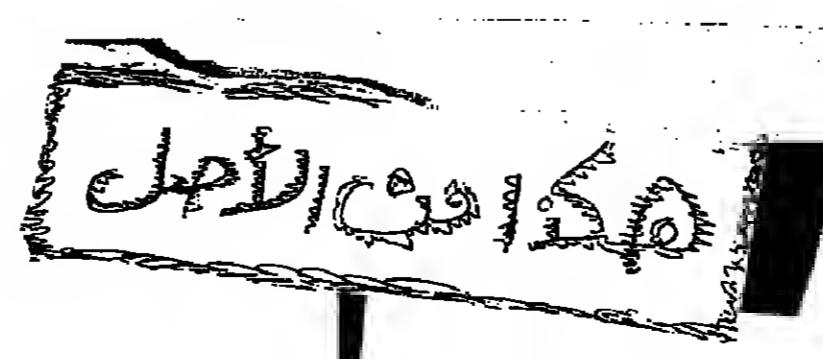
TSIC's technical department is a combination of expertise and experience and by owning modern machinery is proficient in the

fabrication of hydraulic equalizers, automatic ointment filling machines, design and manufacturing of different spare parts, liner cooking vessels, different metal cabs, double sided and four sided metal pallets, light, heavy, semi-heavy and latticed racks and

shelves for warehouses.

Warehousing Services:

Enjoying 10,000 sq. m of highly reliable enclosed warehouses, TSIC's well experienced warehouse department offers the best control and protection methods and is the safest place for stor-





The History of Alborz Computer Company

ACC is handling matters related to information dissemination and data processing for companies affiliated to Alborz Investment Group such as payroll, sales, warehousing, production, accounting and management reporting.

Alborz Computer Company (ACC) was established on April 5, 1995 for purchasing, selling and renting different computers and its peripherals, rendering executive services, conducting computer training courses for companies and private persons and conducting any sort of transaction for other companies which is related to the duties and responsibilities of ACC. Ninety-nine percent of the shares of the ACC is owned by Alborz Investment Company and one percent of the remaining shares belong to the 15 Khorad Foundation.

Before formation of Alborz Investment Group, companies that were owned by the group were each working with the department of K.B.C. Company (Alborz Investment Group is an expanded version of K.B.C. Company). By renting IBM PC model 360 series from Dadehpardazi Company in 1968, Alborz Computer Department of K.B.C. started its operation.

After establishment of ACC several new companies which later joined the Alborz Investment Group became customers of Alborz Computer Company.

Alborz Computer Company (ACC) was established on April 5, 1995.

period of time, that department expanded its operation and enhanced its quality of work by collecting and processing data. With this experience and expertise, Alborz Computer Department operated as a data center for the management of K.B.C. Company during the years 1970 to 1975 and was the first computer department that was accepted a member of the Iran Information

Association. During this period, Alborz Computer played a significant role in preparation of management reports, simplifying management

decision-making and expansion of ACC. Finally Alborz Computer was instrumental in the formation of Alborz Investment Group and during the formation of that group, Alborz Computer separated and became independent and was officially registered as Alborz Computer Company with an aim to serve the other companies that

management reporting. After several new companies which later joined the Alborz Investment Group became customers of Alborz Computer Company.

However, after the victory of Islamic Revolution and establishment of National Industries Organization, the main system of

ACC was the first computer company that was accepted a member of Iran Information Association

all the companies that were covered by that Organization were designed and handled by Alborz Computer Company.

Since 1986, when PC minicomputers were flooded into the country and were widely used throughout the nation, many companies became desirous of operate independently and the role of mainframe in the

Alborz Computer was instrumental in the formation of Alborz Investment Group and during the process it is separated from the Group and became an independent entity.

Alborz Computer Company affiliated to Alborz Investment Group (public joint stock) affiliated to 15 Khorad Foundation

**Address: 34 Aviz Alley, Alvand St., Argentine Sq., Tehran
Tel: 888 1294, 8880724, 8788797 Fax: 8788799**

Alborz Computer Company is equipped with advanced mainframe model 4381/R 14 with its related peripherals and owns a LAN network and a collection of PC computers.

computer business was put to question. But by introducing their desired systems on the personal computer (PC) and identifying the merits and defects of mini-computers (PCs) and main-

playing the guiding role in the use of different facilities of Alborz Computer Company.

Right now Alborz Computer Company is equipped with advanced mainframe model 4381/R 14 with its related peripherals and owns a LAN network of a collection of PC's and several independent PC's. The company is very active in transformation of sales information of companies affiliated to Alborz Investment Group which are doing business through Pakshalborz Company. Profiting from its system of exchanging information with all distribution centers throughout Iran, Alborz Computer Company is continuously receiving information and feeding into its mainframe.

One important point and privilege of Alborz Computer Company is that it keeps all the information of its customers strictly confidential and coded so that no unauthorized person can have access to such store of information.

Ninety-nine percent of the shares of the ACC is owned by Alborz Investment Company and one percent of the remaining shares belong to the 15 Khorad Foundation.



Tolypers Company



Tolypers Company is one of the leading manufacturers of detergent in the Middle East.

This huge industrial concern, established since the solar year 1342 (1963-1964), and being perfectly equipped with up-to-date machinery and technology, highly qualified engineers, expert technicians and experienced staff, has embarked in the enterprise of manufacturing various detergent products.

A period of over 30 years background of industriously constant efforts and activities has efficiently developed this industry to achieve successfully an annual output of 150,000 tons of products, and made it capable of covering about 50 percent of the total detergent requirements of the domestic markets; thus playing an important and effective part in making the country self-sufficient and independent of this industry.



Alborz Investment Co., A Patron of High Quality Production and Export

The Name of Company: Alborz Investment (Public Joint Stock)

Date of Establishment: 1966

The Shareholders: 15th Khordad Foundation: 51.2 percent

Iranian National Investment Co.: 14 percent

12,000 legal and real entities: 34.8 percent

The Subject of Company: Investment and partnership in companies and institutions involved in manufacturing, trade, construction, and services. Transaction of their shares, negotiable papers and bonds, and performing all the other commercial operations relevant to the subject of company.

Affiliated Companies: At present there are 12 companies operating in different fields and come below in the order of their significance:

1. Tolidaru Co.: manufacturer of more than 90 items of drugs, cosmetics and hygienic products.

2. Tolypers Co.: manufacturer of various detergents

3. Keyvan Co.: manufacturer of food-stuffs, chocolates, cookies, ...

4. Alborzdar Co.: manufacturer of drugs,

5. Pakhsh-e Alborz Co.: distributor of the products manufactured by its sister companies etc.

6. Alborz Packing Industries Co.: plastic containers and aluminum tubes,

7. Sulfatic Co.: manufacturer of so-

dium sulfate,

8. Alborz Chemical Incorporate: sodium sulfate production project,

9. Teknosanaye Co.: to perform technical, engineering, transportation and food services for the sister companies,

10. Computer-e Alborz Co.: computer and management services, system analysis,

11. Paivar-e Iran Commercial Co.: exporter of the products of its sister companies and others,

12. Payegozar Co.: consultant engineers and engineering services,

An Interview with the Financial and Administrative Manager of Alborz Investment Co.

Mr. Behzadpour, the financial and administrative manager of Alborz Investment



Mr. Masoud Behzadpour, Administrative and Financial Manager

Co. told about the company's background, "Alborz Investment Co. was established in 1966 un-

der the name of Yekdel Joint Stock Co. and later in 1971 it was changed to a private

joint stock company. In 1974 the company was altered to Alborz Investment Co. as a public joint stock. Af-

ter the Islamic Revolution, the Organization of Iranian National Industries took the state

of affairs in this company and consequently in 1985 by the verdict of the Islamic Revolution Court, the ownership of about 51 percent of its shares was granted to 15th Khordad Foundation.

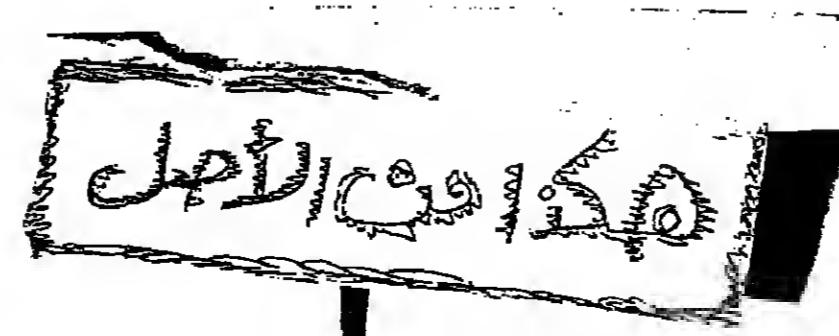
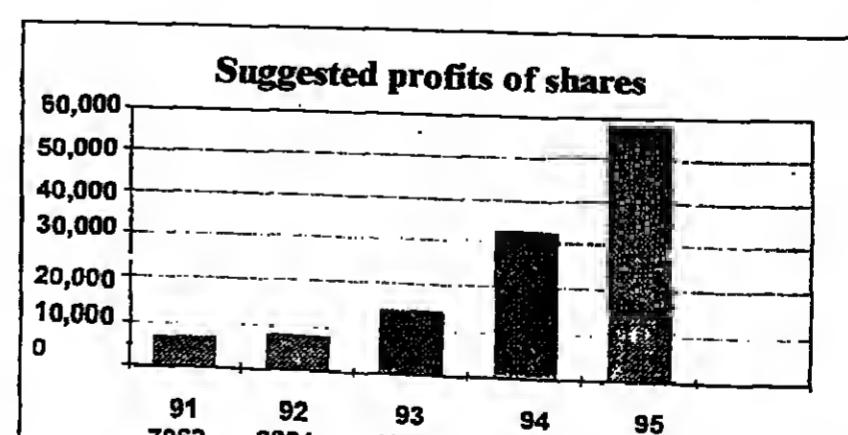
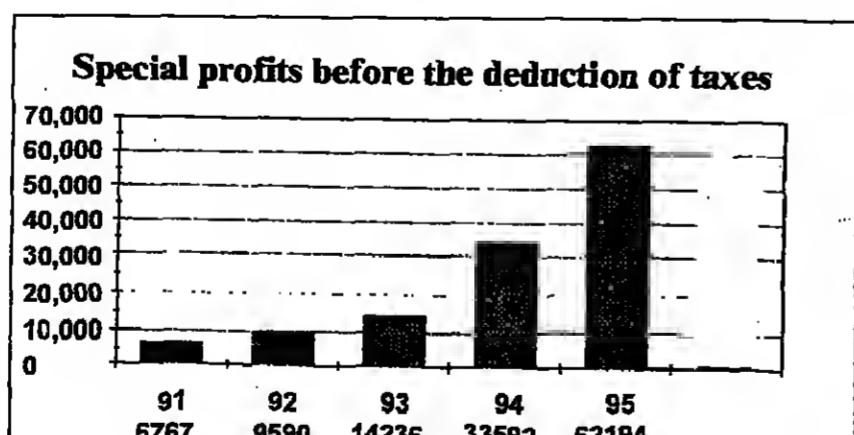
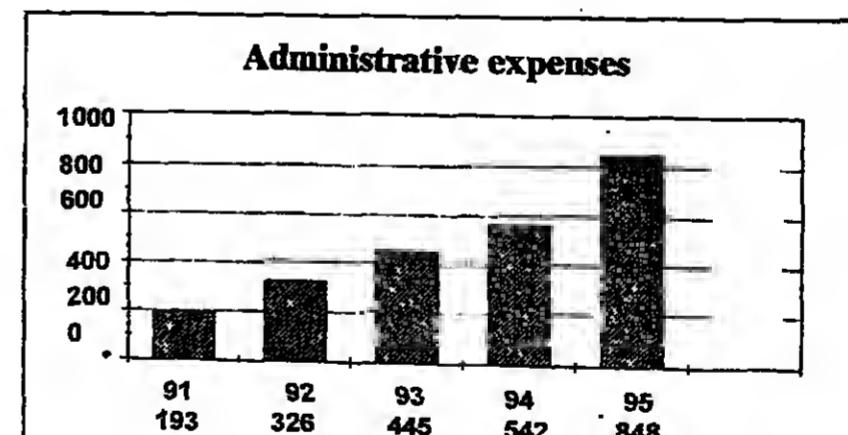
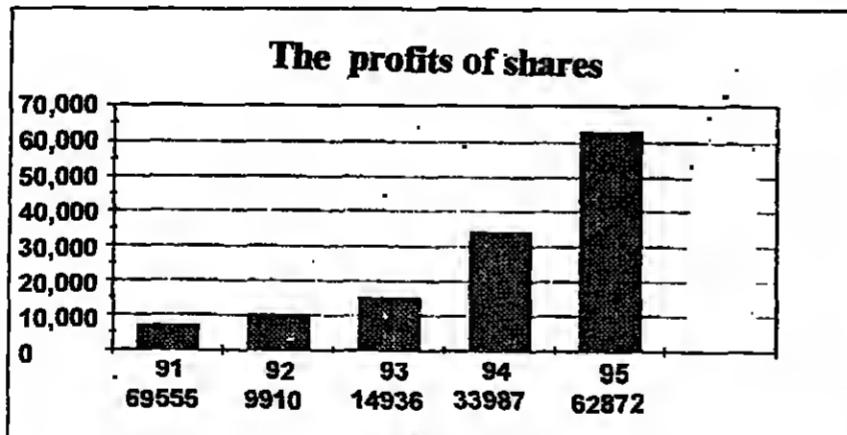
Q: How do you evaluate the present situation of the company in terms of productivity and efficiency. As indicated in our profits chart between 1990 to 1995 the com-

See Page 7

The great demands by our consumers is a sign of our success.

The figure are in million rials

Comparative Charts for Major Items of Profit and Loss in Alborz Investment Co. During the Years 1991-1995:



Alborz Investment Co., A Patron of High Quality Production and Export



From Page 6

pany's net profit has had an annual increase of 100 percent.

Q: How do you evaluate the qualities of your affiliated companies' products? Are they well demanded in the market?

A: As I mentioned our affiliated companies have a very good reputation and for long their products have been known as offering high quality to the consumers. For instance the brands of Darya, Shuma, and Jaam are among the most famous Iranian detergents, Paveh and Afshan are regarded as the most noted shampoos and speaking of foodstuffs, the brand Kaam is one of the most favorite in Iran.

Since a big part of our products are foodstuffs and hygienic items, normally they have to meet several quality standards. Therefore we have tried to equip our quality control labs with the latest technology so we can supply high quality products to the market. The great demands by our consumers is a sign of our success.

Q: What steps have you taken for exporting your products?

A: We practically started to export our products in 1989, but it has been during the past 3 or 4 years that we have expanded our exports and got good results. The worth of our exports in 1993 was 1.7 million dollars

and this figure reached to 5.2 million dollars in 1994. In 1995 we have exported 4.4 million dollars worth of products and in the first half of 1996 we have exported 3.8 mil-

The worth of our exports in 1993 was 1.7 million dollars and this figure reached to 5.2 million dollars in 1994. In 1995 we have exported 4.4 million dollars worth of products and in the first half of 1996 we have exported 3.8 million dollars of products.

lion dollars of products.

So far we have exported our products to the Persian Gulf states, Central Asian republics, Afghanistan and Pakistan and intend to continue such developments and reach the market of Europe and the Far East. Due to their high qualities and competitive prices our products have gained good grounds abroad and in case we can overcome such problems as transportation and customs regulations, our products can be easily sold in the

international market. For this reason we have established Paivar-e Iran Commercial Co. to expand our ac-

tivities in the field of export. The company is to export the products of our group of companies and run the relevant operations such as sales and marketing abroad.

1995 (Taxes not deducted)

Q: What plans do you have on the way of expansion of the company and its manufacturing and commercial activities?

A: During the recent years we have tried to adapt the company with present circumstances and one of our most important plans is to reform the financial structure of our group of companies to lift it to a desirable level and have almost been successful. For this reason we have had 100 percent increase of capital last year. Based on the latest surveys we needed 65 billion rials for the improvement of the capital in our important companies, 25 billion rials of which

Co., Tolidar Co., Keyvan Co., and Alborz Packing Industries. We hope these plans guarantee the qualitative and quantitative growth of the company and its various products.

I should point it out that to date we have concentrated all of our efforts into adapting the financial structure of company with the status quo --fluctua-

Alborz Investment Co., A Patron of High Quality Production and Export
them to supply the necessary information. Among our topics for development are substitution and upgrading the machinery.

development plans resulting in the increase of profits, development plans resulting in the increased control over the market, and development plans for achieving inde-

Year	Figures in million rials
1990	6,233
1991	6,767
1992	9,590
1993	14,237
1994	33,592
1995	62,194

tions in the exchange rates and the post-war situations through increasing the company's capital. To retain the present pace of growth, we had to utilize all the financial resources available and as a result we didn't think about the expansion of our group of companies. It is worth mentioning that 15th Khordad Foundation is now gathering information to prepare a five-year plan and with the preparation of this plan our group of companies will have guidelines and schedules for their activities. A notice has been sent to each company asking

The Table of Exports of Paivar-e Iran Commercial Co. During March to September 1996 In Terms of the Destination

No.	Destination	Worth of Goods in Dollars
1	Azerbaijan	2,093,095
2	Armenia	547,293
3	Afghanistan	413,886
4	Pakistan	252,336
5	Kuwait	152,364
6	Georgia	102,160
7	Oman	59,472
8	Ukraine	45,342
9	Daghestan	34,007
10	Belorussia	29,194
11	U.A.E.	27,204
12	Nakhichevan	13,290
13	Uzbekistan	11,474
14	Mali	9,180
	Total	3,790,297

The Table of Exports of Paivar-e Iran Commercial Co. Dur-

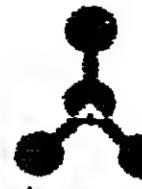
holders and we hope to procure the remaining 40 billion rials shortly. The company's capital is now 45.8 billion rials. After we had provided the means for full capacity production, it was the time for development plans and now such plans are on the way in Tolypers

pendence. We are preparing this information to be passed to 15th Khordad Foundation.

Q: What are your main problems in achieving your goals? What are your suggestions for improvement?

A: I'm pleased to say that now the economic situation of our country is far better than it used to be, the exchange rates are more stable, our country's credits have been improved. The problems that existed during 1993 and 1994 are settled now and the foreign parties are interested in doing business with us.

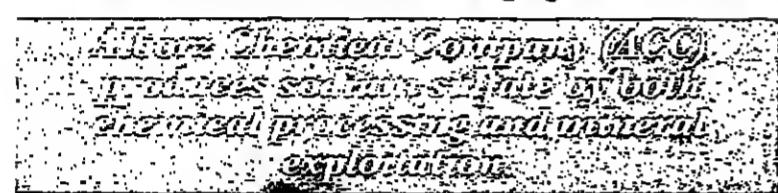
Alborz Investment Co.'s address: No. 35 Saba Blvd. Afzalieh, Tehran 19177, Iran
Tel: 205-26-97-2055266-20552509
Fax: (02-21) 205-2509
Post Box: 10395/4529



Alborz Chemical Company Revives Vital Sodium Sulfate Mine



MOJTABA VAHEDI Managing Director



Sodium sulfate is the raw material used in washing and paper manufacturing industries which can be obtained from mineral and chemical sources. Of course existence of rich resources and provisioning of such resources through chemical means is far more economical.

Alborz Chemical Company (ACC) is one of those companies which produces sodium sulfate by both methods i.e. chemical processing and mineral exploitation. In fact the original objective of ACC was to attain the technology of production of sodium sulfate by chemical methods, but after discovery of a mine in Arak the company resorted to exploitation of mineral sodium sulfate without forsaking its original objective which is that of production of sodium sulfate by chemical processing.

In the following report the method of formation of Alborz Chemical Company (ACC), extent of progress of works and its present situation is described by ACC Managing Director engineer Vahedi.

How the mine was established as feasible:

Referring to the original activities of the ACC and the philosophy of establishment of that company, Vahedi said earlier reports released indicated that the recognized sodium sulfate mineral reserves for exploitation or capital investment were about to be exhausted, whereas as an important raw material for washing and paper making industries, sodium sulfate is still being sought by a large number of the nation's industries and is being imported from abroad at very high cost. In the meantime the per capita paper consumption in the country is very low compared to other countries, whereas should we decide to approach world standards for consumption of paper for this

In 1994 when it was established that such a rich mine existed 25 km from the Arak City in Central Province, the 15 Khordad Foundation ordered the Alborz Chemical Company to concentrate on that mine and we proceeded to the project immediately.

developing nation whose administrators are insisting on cultural growth as a first priority, our need for this vital item will be several folds.

Anyhow according to the

Company i.e. in 1993, reports were published to the effect that a mine with relatively high reserves of sodium sulfate was discovered in Arak. Of course the process of identification of the mine had been completed by Iran Mineral Company in 1992 but due to difficulty of access to the mine, after six months of studies it was established that even in case of reaching the mine, transportation would be increasingly difficult. This cessation of works was due to geographical condition of the mine. The mine is located 25 km from Arak in a seasonal/swampy lake. The lake is not deep and in those

Foundation and is engaged in the production of sodium sulfate, to concentrate on that mine and exploit from it. This coincided with my appointment as the managing director of Alborz Chemical Company. Effective immediately preliminary arrangements were made and necessary coordination were made with the Ministry of Mines and Metals for research studies.

On the basis of reports published earlier, engineer Kolahdooz, deputy minister of Mines and Metals, had been convinced that the said mine was not feasible for capital investment. For this reason we started to examine the pro-

works.

From December 1994 we started our studies in the island by examining the extent of minerals reserves and the possibility of having access to the mine with the assistance of those who were expert in building roads in swampy areas and had gathered experience

content, its rate of purity, methods of exploitation and transportation of the minerals, while the wells were being dug by our laborers in the swampy area, there was always a danger of collapse of the debris. Meanwhile, one must not forget that this operation was carried out at minus 10 to 12 degrees

In Autumn 1994 we carried engineer Kolahdooz to the island to personally witness the rich sodium sulfate reserves, and once convinced of the richness of the mine he immediately instructed us to proceed with the work.

C. Since the water is briny in the lake it always remains liquid and never freezes and the danger of collapse of the wells always threatened the lives of our works. However, despite all these difficulties and risks, we succeeded to complete our expertise operation by a meager capital of 40 million rials. By the time the road was completed we were gratified to report to the Ministry of Mines and Metals that the mine had a definite reserve of 4 million tons of sodium sulfate with an average purity of 30%.

The first company which commenced mineral operation in the area was Miqan Mining Co. which was established by Alborz Chemical Company in the region in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Mines and Metals that a resident contractor should operate in the area. During a one year period that Miqan Mining Company was operating in the island no other contractor commenced work there. We examined different methods of exploitation in the mine and because of marshy condition of the island, various estimates were made by different groups. But being closely familiar with the work site, we are now exploiting



Should we decide to approach world standards in paper consumption for this purpose those advantages are numerous and our need for sodium sulfate will be several folds.

ject despite its unfavorable geographical location and excessively difficult passage to the premises and in Autumn 1994 we carried engineer Kolahdooz and several other experts of the Ministry of Mines and Metals to the

in the war operation in swampy areas such as the Hoor battle, in Khuzestan Province. Simultaneously with the completion of our tests and upon receipt of a progress report in that connection, Kolahdooz instructed the depart-

The mine had been explored by Iran Mineral Company in 1992 but due to difficulty of access to the mine, after six months of studies due to difficulty of access to the mine the project was considered economically not feasible and was abandoned.

ments concerned to build a road which reached the island and thanks to that road we are now able to rich the island in 3 minutes by car from the bank of the lake whereas all through 1373 we had to ride 4 hours by boat to rich the island and since we had to cross 3 km of swampy earth it took 8 hours for us to make a round trip to that island. Meanwhile the road is solid enough for traffic of heavy trucks.

However, I wish to say that our devoted and hard-working team should claim the laurels for reviving this vital mine which due to a very difficult passage and the difficulty of examination of the mine, had been wholly abandoned. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of my colleagues this difficult ordeal was undertaken by them with absolute dedication and zeal and we were determined to see that our operation should bore fruit. During our examination of the mine to establish the volume of its mineral

the mine nearly without any additional expenses. By digging 1 m of the ground by loader we reach the minerals and do not need special mine exploitation machinery. Meanwhile, once the mining companies became assured that it was possible and feasible to exploit sodium sulfate from the mine, many other companies rushed to the site and are now working in that area. But as I mentioned above the credit for the revival and rehabilitation of the mine should go to the 15 Khordad Foundation and the daring management of engineer Kolahdooz in the Ministry of Metals and Mines who jointly rehabilitated the unexplored and abandoned mine, creating employment for the region and adding enormous wealth to the nation.

Sodium sulfate exploitation process:

In order to exploit sodium sulfate and convert it to powder with 99% purity for ready in industries we had estimated a 23 million German marks foreign exchange investment besides a considerable sum of rials investment. Besides rials investment the process will

See Page 9

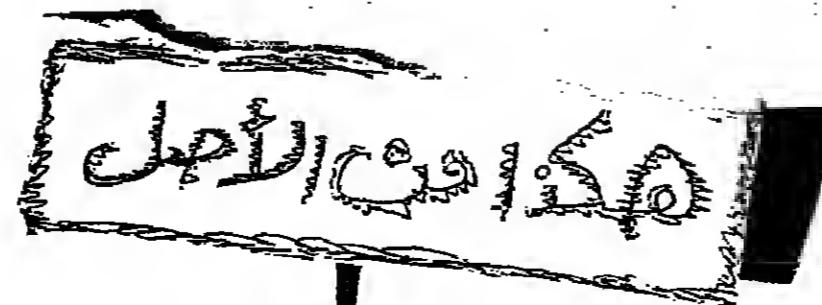


seasons of the year when the level of water drops, it grows marshy and extremely difficult to handle. The total area of the seasonal lake is approximately 36 sq. km and there is an island with 1 sq. km area in the center of the lake which contains the main deposits of the minerals.

In the beginning of 1994 when it was established that such a rich mine existed 25 km from the Arak City in Central Province, the 15 Khordad Foundation ordered the Alborz Chemical Company to concentrate on that mine and we proceeded to the project immediately.

island by helicopter to personally witness the rich sodium sulfate contents in the one meter deep wells that revealed 3 m deep sodium sulfate reserves. Convinced of the richness of the mine, Kolahdooz delegated our company on the spot to immediately proceed with the detail engineering

My devoted colleagues at Alborz Chemical Co. should claim credit for reviving this vital mine which due to difficult passage had been wholly abandoned.



Sobhan Pharmaceutical Co.

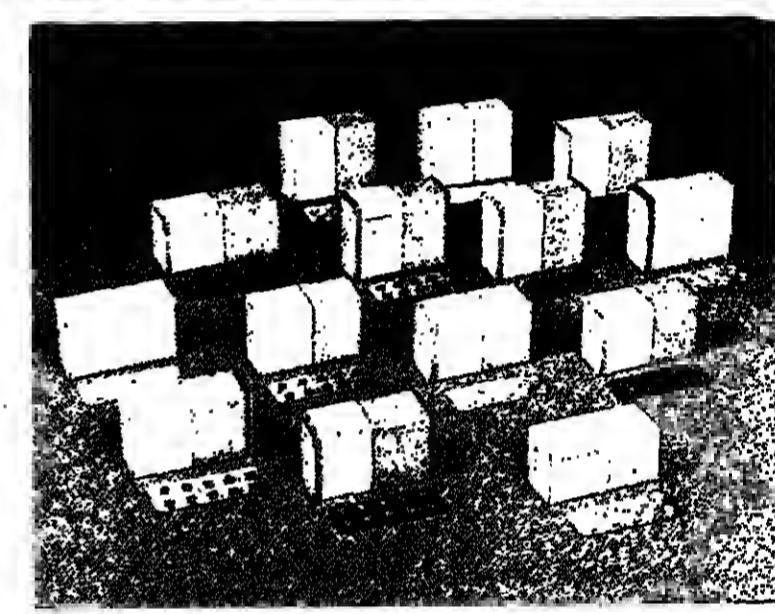
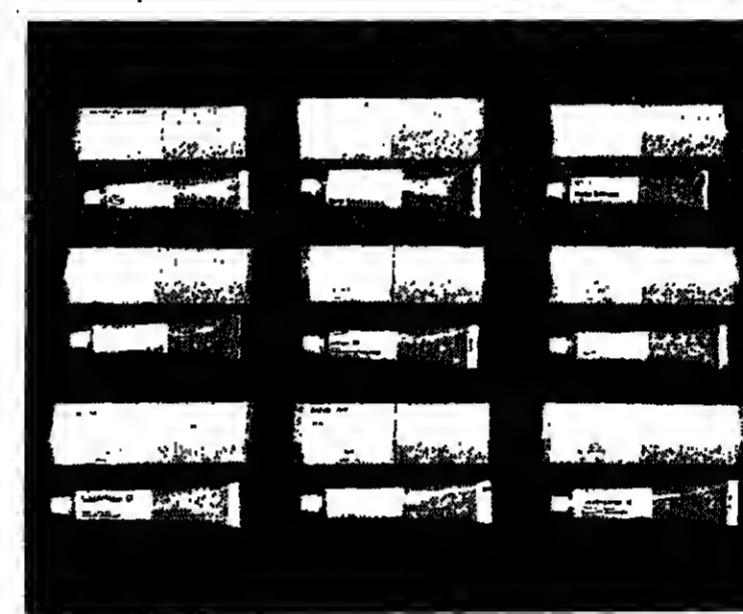
Sobhan Pharm. Co. (private joint stock), received its "principal establishment agreement" from "the Ministry of Industries and Mines" in 1976. The factory was designed and built by technical assistance of Ciba-Gaigy, ex-Swiran.

After preliminary provisions, the factory was commissioned in late 1981, and since 1985, it has been working under the title of "Sobhan Pharm. Co."

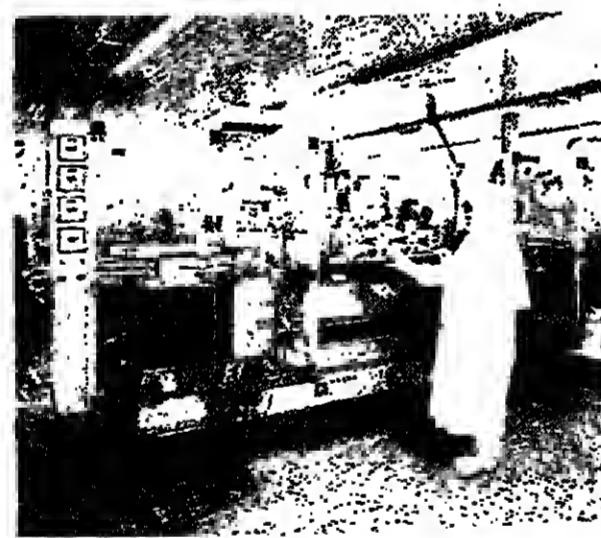
The factory, with an area of 112,400 sq. m and premises of 10,000 sq. m, is located at the Rasht Industrial City, and the central office is in Tehran.

Today, Sobhan Pharm. Co. is one of the most successful affiliates of 15 Khordad Foundation and is trying to achieve the highest standards in manufacturing pharmaceuticals to fulfill the requirements of Iran's new drug policy as far as the quality & quantity is concerned.

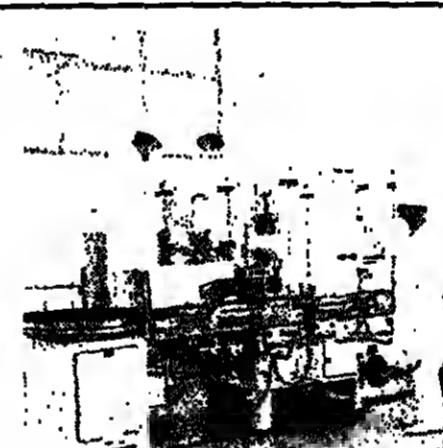
50 different kinds of pharmaceuticals are produced by Sobhan which satisfy about 9 percent of the local demand.



Export is our main objective and hope that our quality products will be marketed to the neighboring countries as well as the countries with a potential demand for our high quality products.



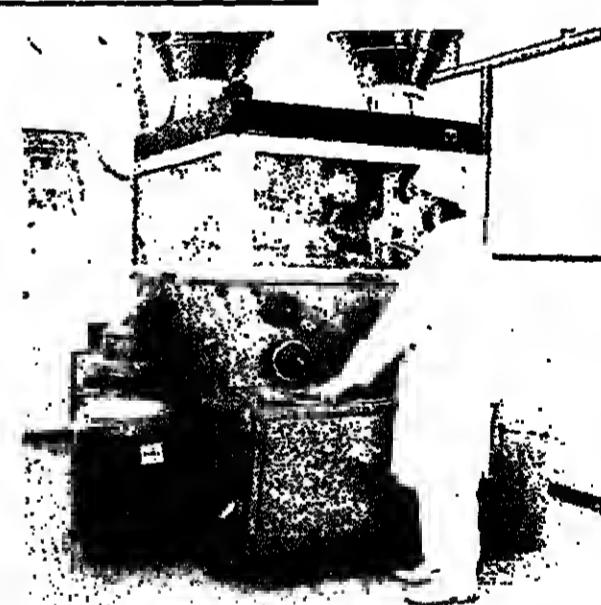
Packing:
Chemical stability and efficiency of drugs can be affected by natural factors such as light, relative humidity and temperature. To overcome the alteration of preparations, the packing is carried out automatically according to international standards with highest quality and excellent performance.



Oral drops line, with a total capacity of some 6 million bottles per annum.

Production Lines:
This company is active in 3 production lines as are described below:

Tablets and coated-tablets line, with a total capacity of some 1.2 billion tablets per annum.

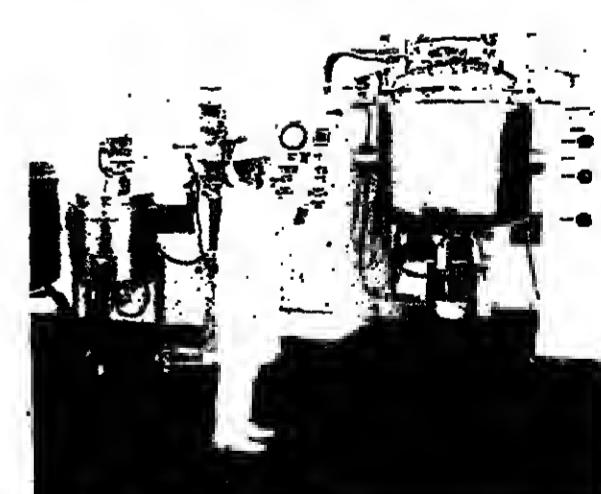


Q.C. Laboratories:
These laboratories are equipped with modern analytical apparatus including UV & IR spectrophotometers and HPLC. Due to highly qualified specialists not only the necessary quality tests are performed, but even the least amount of impurity and the likely toxicity of drugs is distinguished and measured at any step of the production. One of our main objectives is to export the surplus of our quality products to other nations, specially the neighboring ones, giving the priority to meeting the domestic demand.

Formulation and Research Department:
In this department, the chemical stability tests, formulation of new drugs, modification and/or optimization of the current formulations are performed by qualified specialists.

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Internet, Online Industry Satisfied with New Copyright Treaty

WASHINGTON (AFP) - An international coalition of trade associations, Internet and online associations expressed satisfaction Monday at the approval last week of a digital copyright treaty.

The ad hoc copyright coalition said it was pleased that the agreement worked out in Geneva by the World Intellectual Property Organization did not contain "article seven."

The provision, initially part of the proposed treaty text and actively opposed by Internet service providers and telecommunications companies, would have applied copyright protection to "temporary" copies made with each tap on the keyboard.

"Forcing transmission companies to try to read and evaluate every internet transmission could

German Gov't, Employers Ready for New Talks with Unions

BONN (AFP) - The German government and employers spoke out on Monday in favor of new meetings with the unions to resume the three-way dialogue that was interrupted last spring after the government's decision to impose austerity measures without consultation.

"If one thinks about the future tax reform and Germany's difficulties in improving its competitiveness, a new round would certainly be useful", said Hans Peter Stihl, president of the Association of Chambers of Commerce

Siemens to Acquire Stake in Elektrowatt

MUNICH, GERMANY (AFP) - German electrical engineering group Siemens AG will acquire CS Holding's share in the Elektrowatt company for 1.3 billion marks after Elektrowatt is split into two parts, Siemens announced on Monday.

It said it then expects to submit a bid to Elektrowatt stockholders to acquire the whole company.

The purchase of the holding now belonging to CS Holding of

Renault Issues Profits Warning

PARIS (AFP) - Renault warned that a slide into loss would deepen this year and said that conditions next year "will be even tougher", owing to a price war in a contracting market.

The company reported a net profit of 158 million francs (\$30.38 billion) for the first half of the year on September 10, from a profit of 1.755 billion francs in the first half of last year but warned that it would report a net loss for the whole year after nine years of profits.

"Given that discounts were even harsher than expected in France, unfortunately I can announce only a worsening of this trend," the president of Renault, Louis Schweitzer, told the *Le Tribune* newspaper.

He also said that the French market for lorries had fallen back again.

Consequently efforts to reduce production costs, which had amounted to slightly less than 1,500 francs per vehicle at the end of 1996, "have enabled us merely to halt the decline of our market share", he said.

Renault was on target to reduce costs by 3,000 francs per vehicle by the end of 1997 but market conditions next year

have ground the Internet to a halt," argued MCI chief technology counsel Timothy Casey.

A coalition statement here said copyright scholars, librarians and scientists had lobbied delegates in Geneva on the impact of curbs on temporary computer copying of materials transmitted over the Internet.

It said the treaty language would permit the use of technology to develop copyright protection mechanisms of the future.

"The signing of this treaty is an important step towards the development of technological solutions to further balance the interests of copyright owner with the free flow of data and information on the Internet," said Peter Harter, public policy counsel of Netscape Communications.

India Pledges to Stick by Market Reforms

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India on Monday promised it would not back down on the economic reforms launched five years ago and sought to allay fears of a slowdown during fiscal 1996-97 to March.

Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said steps taken so far by his United Front government should dispel doubts over a slowdown of the reforms launched in 1991 by the previous Congress (I) Party administration.

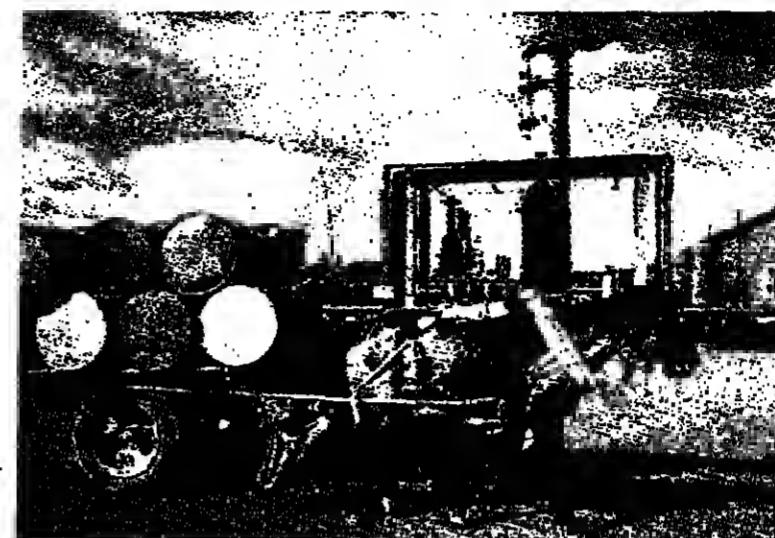
Chidambaram, speaking to the northern Indian industrial lobby, the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the current year would see the same growth as achieved during the last two financial years.

"Despite sluggish credit offtake, lower financial institutions' sanctions and depressed capital market in first half of the year, macro-economic fundamentals remain very strong," United News of India (UNI) quoted Chidambaram as saying here.

Indian business lobbies say industrial output grew 8.9 percent for the four months to July 1996 as compared to 12.3 percent during the corresponding period last year, while exports rose 9.8 percent compared to 28 percent.

Infrastructure industries such as petroleum, electricity, steel and coal registered a poor growth of 3.3 percent compared to 10.7 percent for the April-July period, they say.

"We are determined to tackle the infrastructure problem. While I see signs of hope I also despair at the dilatory process which decision making is put through," the finance minister said, referring to



the bureaucracy.

Chidambaram, however, said the performance of certain sectors during the first half of 1996-97 should not be taken as a "benchmark" of sluggishness.

The minister said he was confident the agriculture sector would out-perform last year while the service sector would match its achievement of the previous year.

"With investment picking up in recent months the industrial sector would also mark an upturn," said Chidambaram, who was commerce minister in the previous government led by P.V. Narasimha Rao, credited with initiating the reforms.

Chidambaram also said exports were higher month-on-month since September 1995 until June-July in the current financial year.

"Exports have again picked up from September and October," UNI quoted Chidambaram as saying.

Inflation hovered between six

and seven percent in the past six months despite a hike in the price of petroleum products, he said, predicting the actual rate of year on year inflation in 1996-97 would be lower than in 1995-96.

"The real culprit for the slow credit offtake in the initial months of the year is the real interest rate of about 15 percent," the minister was quoted as saying.

"But with most of the banks cutting their interest rates and the inflation remaining under control the real interests have come down to seven to eight percent... that should encourage fresh investments," he said.

Chidambaram said industry should not expect unleashing of credit supply since it could spark inflation.

At the same time, money supply would not be squeezed at the cost of industrial growth, he said, adding the center-left coalition government would also not cut subsidies for farmers and urban consumers.

Economic Digest

KUWAIT - The state-owned Kuwait Oil Tankers Co. has sold two tankers for \$18.5 million and scrapped a third, *Ashraq al-Awsat* newspaper reported Monday.

The moves were part of a plan to modernize the company's fleet of 31 vessels, the London-based daily reported.

The three tankers were over 20 years old. One tanker with a 420,000-ton capacity was sold for \$11.5 million, the other with a 260,000-ton capacity fetched \$7 million. The newspaper did not name the buyers.

The third tanker, with a 30,000-ton capacity, was sold to a Bangladeshi scrap yard for \$1.57 a ton.

DUBAI - Abu Dhabi and Dubai are jointly planning to build an iron plant.

The plant will be built in the Al Taweela industrial area on the border of the two emirates, said an official at the state-owned Abu Dhabi General Industry Organization.

The plant is likely to include steel milling operations, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Most of the plant's output will be used to make steel for the construction industry.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are the largest and richest of the seven sheikdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates.

DOHA - Qatar began exporting liquefied natural gas on Monday, port officials said.

They said the first shipment of 65,000 tons, destined for the Chubu Electric Power Corp. of Japan, left Qatar's Ras Laffan Port on the LNG carrier Al Zubarah.

Qatar has a 25-year agreement to sell 4 million tons of liquefied natural gas a year to Chubu.

The shipment is the first export of liquefied natural gas by Qatar, which has the world's third-largest natural gas reserves.

The shipment was supplied by the Qatar Liquefied Natural Gas Co., which will have capacity of 6 million tons of gas a year when fully commissioned next year. Current capacity is 2 million tons a year.

WASHINGTON - Consumers earned more and spent more in November, the government said Monday, helping the important holiday shopping season get off to a solid start. The commerce department said November spending rose 0.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$5.24 trillion.

NEW YORK - Overseas companies' American shares should continue their surge into 1997, spurred by bargain-hunting investors, dealers and Wall Street experts said.

BONN - Facing the daunting task of curbing record unemployment, German government, opposition and business leaders said they wanted to revive talks on an "alliance for jobs" that collapsed earlier this year.

TOKYO - Japanese oil companies Japan Energy Corp and Mitsubishi Oil Co Ltd plan to start commercial production of crude oil from 1998 in Papua New Guinea, the Japanese economic daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

TOKYO - Mitsubishi Motors Corp and Sweden's Volvo have agreed to strengthen their business ties and will explore ways of cooperating in sales and car components, the Japanese car maker said.

Russian Middle Class Growing, Reluctant to Invest

MOSCOW (Reuters) - A small but growing middle class is emerging in Russia, but its members are reluctant to provide the investment needed to kick the economy into growth, a senior government official said on Monday.

"The important thing is not the rich or the poor, but what is between them," Yury Yurkov, the chairman of the State Statistics Committee, told a news conference. "The middle class is forming..." he said.

Yurkov said investors, average Russians who could fuel growth by investing their savings, still hesitate to put their money in Russia. "Nineteen ninety-seven is not sure to bring an investment boom," he said.

Economic growth has eluded Russia since reforms began in earnest in 1992, but Yurkov said some indicators showed indirectly that Russians' lot is starting to improve.

Russians now own about twice as many cars as in 1990, up to 15.2 million at the beginning of December from 8.7 million in 1990, extremely low for a population of nearly 150 million but a sharp rate of growth, he said.

Real incomes, which take into account inflation, were flat for the year, he said, and hidden income, paid but not taxed, made up some 11 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Russian officials have often said the economy will spring into growth next year - the same promise they made for 1996.

The 1997 budget which faces final approval by parliament forecasts two percent growth in GDP, the broadest indicator of output.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has repeatedly referred to 1997 as a "breakthrough year".

But overall figures indicate that the economy is still shrinking. GDP fell six percent over the year, a bigger loss than 1995's fall of four percent, while industrial output fell five percent after three percent in 1995.

"The problem with industrial growth is temporary," Yurkov said.

Analysts have said that presidential and parliamentary elections in the last 13 months and President Boris Yeltsin's November heart surgery undermined growth this year.

Foreigners were wary of investing in Russia, and domestic industry was more focused on politics than economics, some say.

National Carrier Upgrading Fleet

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AP) - India's national carrier is selling off its Boeing 747-200s as part of plans to upgrade its fleet, a newspaper reported Monday.

The Hindustan Times said Air India had finalized a deal to sell its nine late-model 747-200s to Southern Air Transport Co., a Miami-based cargo airliner, for \$20 million each.

In the early 1990s the airline had proposed buying nine 747-400s, and over the last three years purchased four. Boeing introduced the 747-400 in 1988.

According to its most recent annual report, the airline has a fleet of 28 aircraft: nine 747-200s, three Airbus A-300 B4s, eight Airbus A-310s, two Boeing 747-300s and six Boeing 747-400s.

Christmas Thoughts

Christmas songs sing in my ears, Christmas delights I smell. A Kaleidoscope of lights sparkles in my eyes, and my heart beats the Christmas rhythm; beating faster still as Christmas draws near.

No, while I am far from home here in my adopted country, there are no Christmas songs in the air to hear, nor do the smell of Christmas baking assuage our nostrils. People are not in a frenzy for Christmas shopping and there are no Santas in the street corners, and yet, my senses are alive with Christmas memories and my imagination race.

The Christmas tree, sparkling in its splendor
(Even if bare, it is splendid)
Stockings on the wall, waiting for eager hands

Christmas gifts! Christmas Carols!

The food! Oh, the food! Tempting, delicious delights!

And most of all, there is

...the family. Yes, it is for family that we celebrate Christmas, at this point I think of the manger family - Joseph, the Virgin Mary, and the baby Jesus. The beauty of the manger scene appeals to us all because it echoes the need for family in each and every one of us. No one is an exception, not the man who holds power in his hands nor the comfortably rich. Not the woman who goes through life wiping sweat of blood and tears from her brows, not the hardened criminal, nor the pathetic little girl stretching out her cold hands for alms.

The noted anthropologist, Margaret Mead, said that social life, may change form through time; that there will be communes, single mothers, single fathers, religious communities, male-dominated or female dominated societies and tribes. But, throughout all the upheavals and changes, the family remains.

A family has to be together, stand together. Has it occurred to you that if the manger scene did not have Joseph, would it be as symbolic of unity, authority and discipline as it is now? If the manger scene did not have Mary, would it be as beautiful and as compassionately appealing? If it did not have the baby Jesus, would it be as whole, as complete.

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Choristers prepare for their Christmas concert in the ancient church of Waltham abbey in Essex, eastern England. The historic church was originally founded by King Harold who is reputed to have been buried in the churchyard following defeat at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

(Courtesy of L.P.S.)

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